YUKI SUETSUGU

Chihayafuru

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TWO

Chihayafuru

二

TWO

YUKI SUETSUGU

VERSE 6
page 03

VERSE 7
page 37

VERSE 8
page 69

VERSE 9
page 99

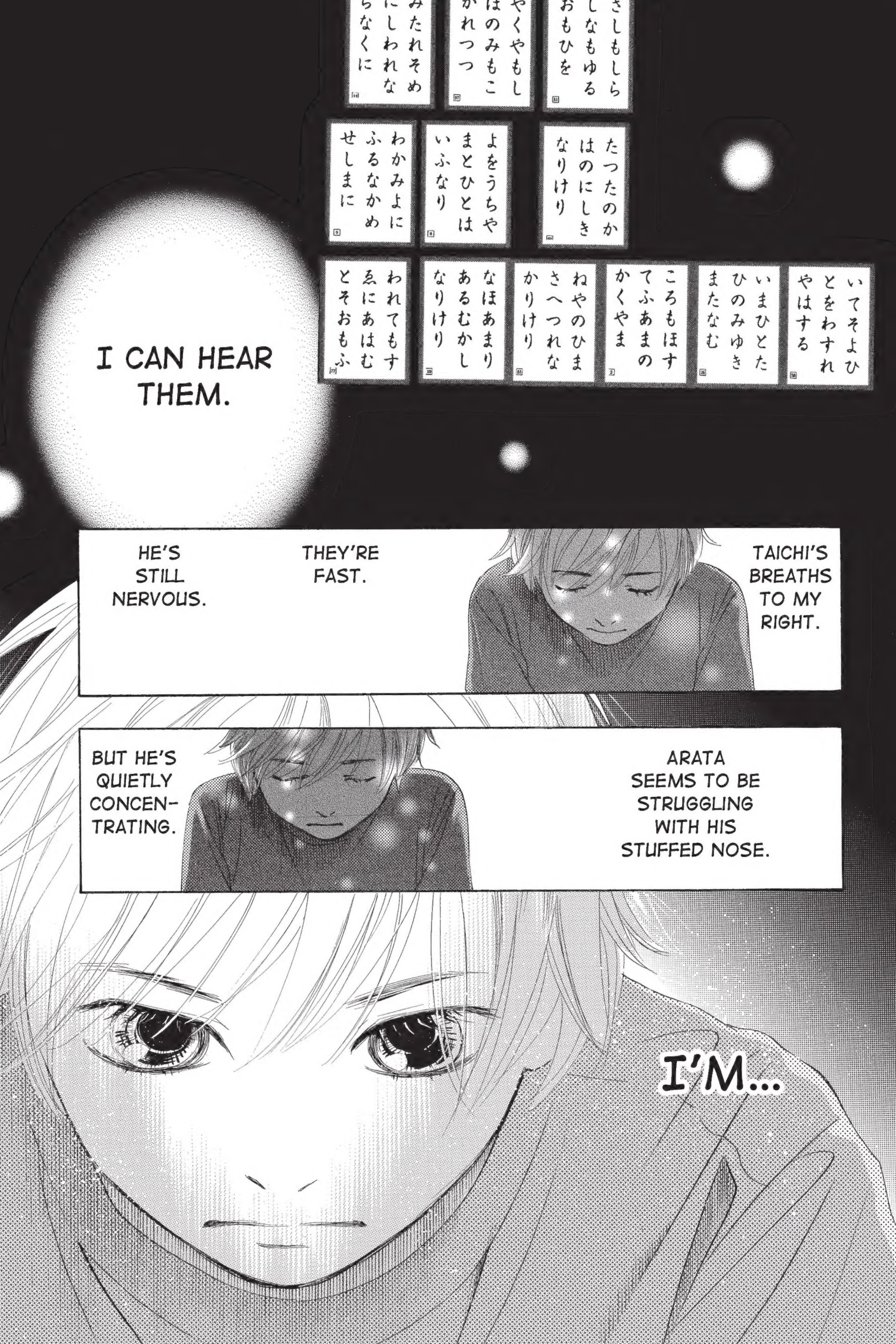
VERSE 10
page 129

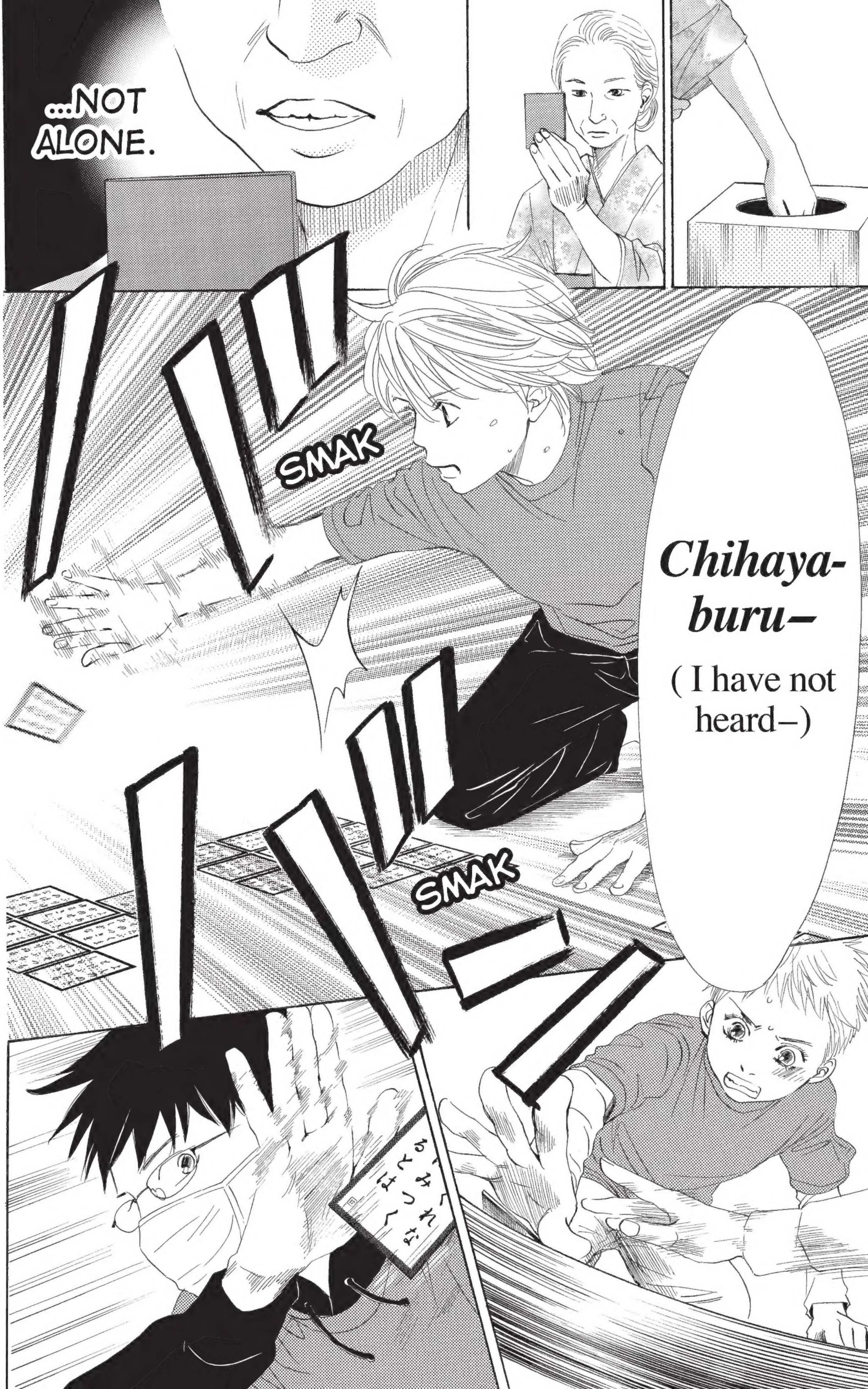
VERSE 11
page 159

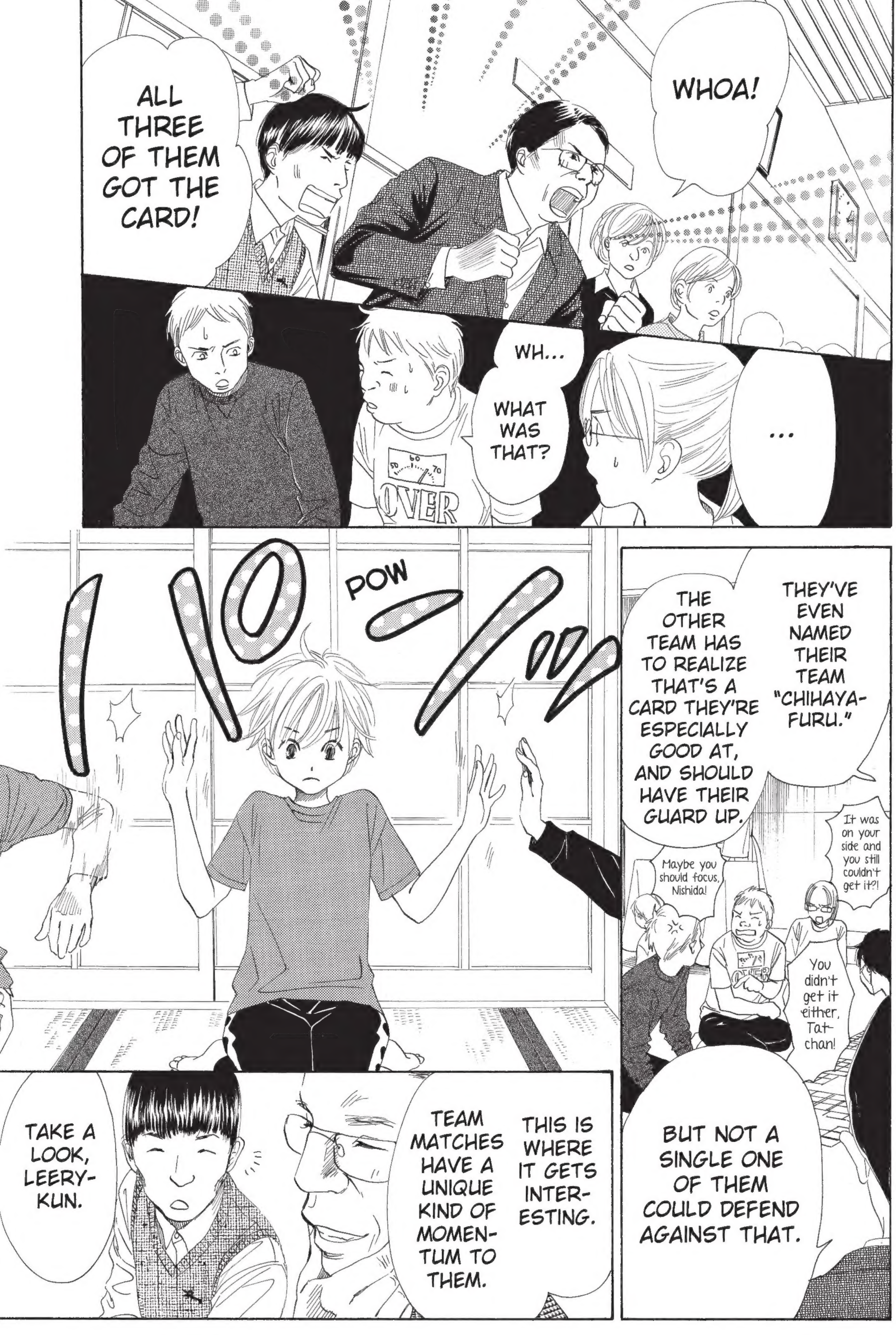
VERSE 6

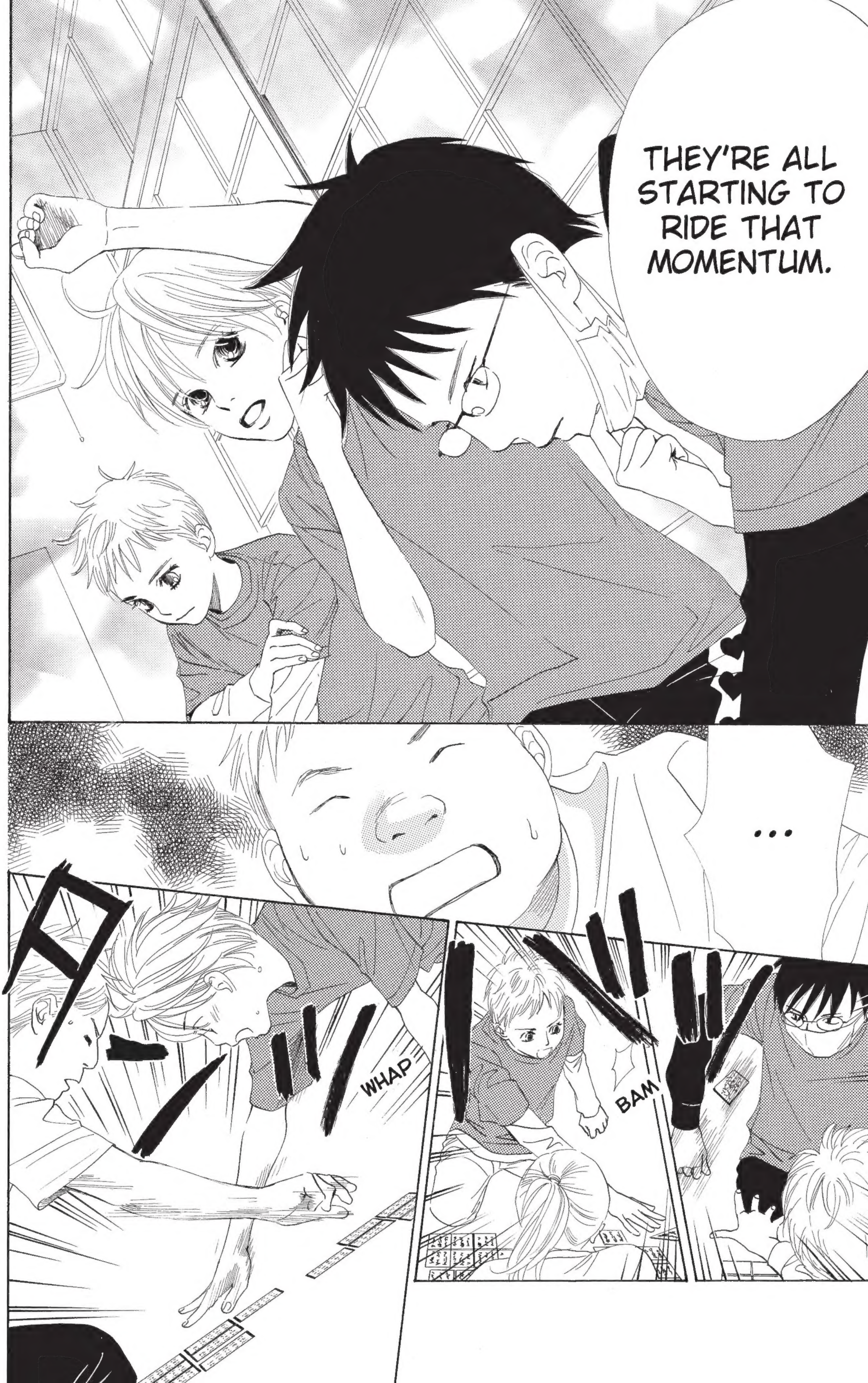
Chihayafuru

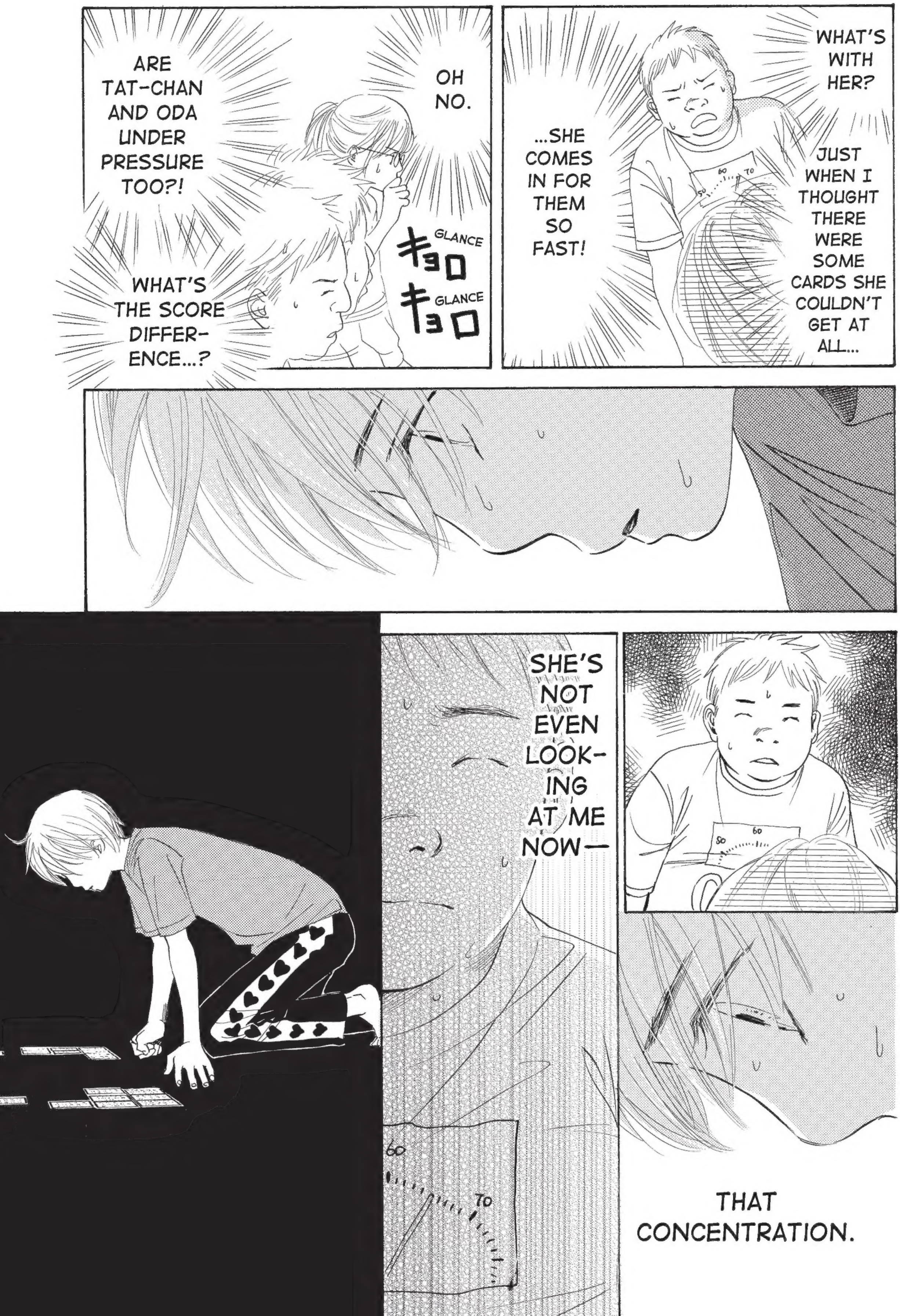
Chihayafuru

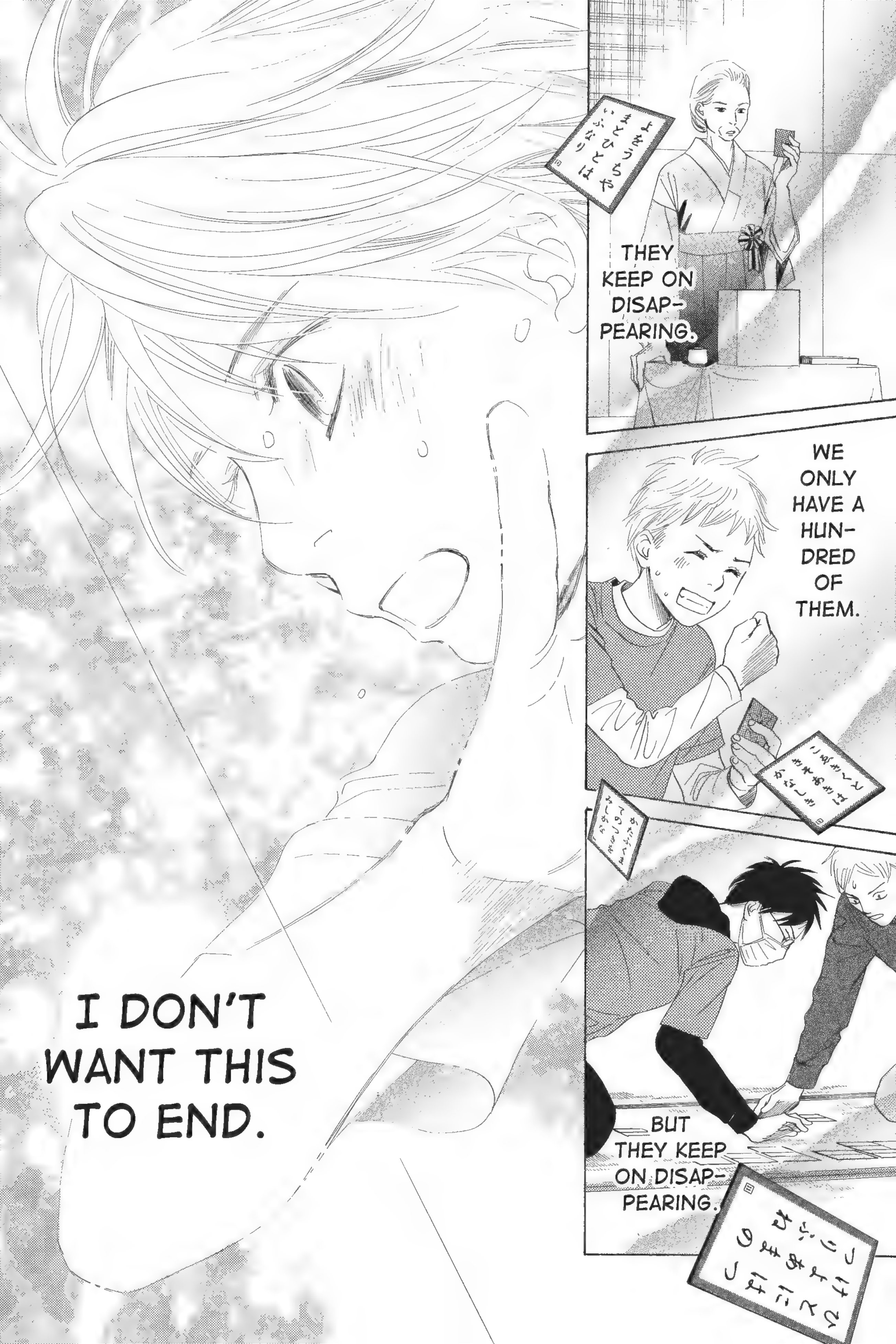

さしもしら しなもゆる おもひを
やくやもし はのみもこ かれつつ
みたれそめ にしわれな らなくに
たつたのか はのにしき なりけり
よをうちや まとひとは いふなり
わかみよに ふるなかめ せしまに
いてそよひ とをわすれ やはする
いまひとた ひのみゆき またなむ
ころもほす てふあまの かくやま
ねやのひま さへつれな かりけり
なほあまり あるむかし なりけり
われてもす ゑにあはむ とそおもふ
I CAN HEAR THEM.
TAICHI'S BREATHS TO MY RIGHT.
THEY'RE FAST.
HE'S STILL NERVOUS.
ARATA SEEMS TO BE STRUGGLING WITH HIS STUFFED NOSE.
BUT HE'S QUIETLY CONCENTRATING.
I'M...

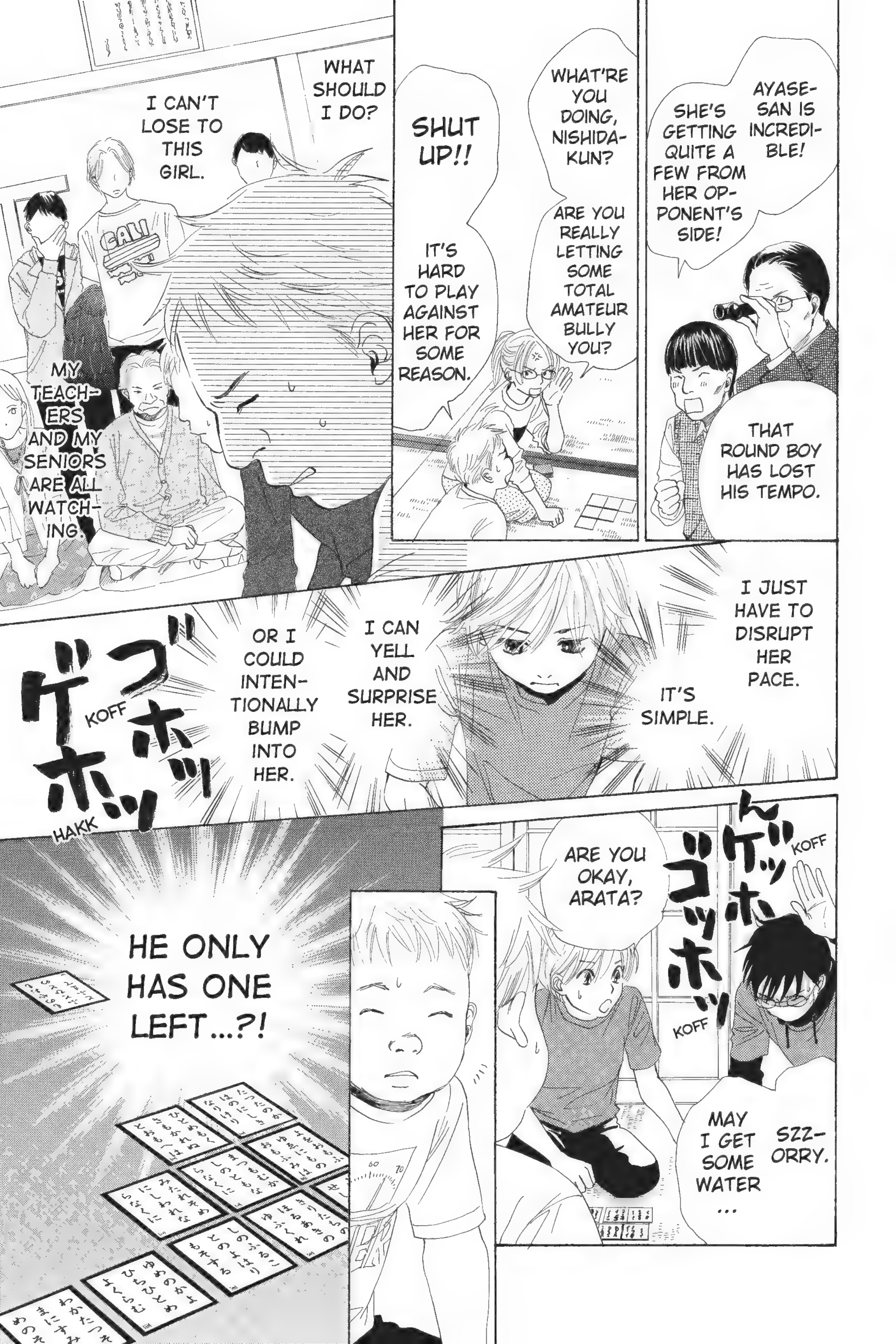

...NOT ALONE.
Chihaya-buru– (I have not heard–)
SMAK
SMAK

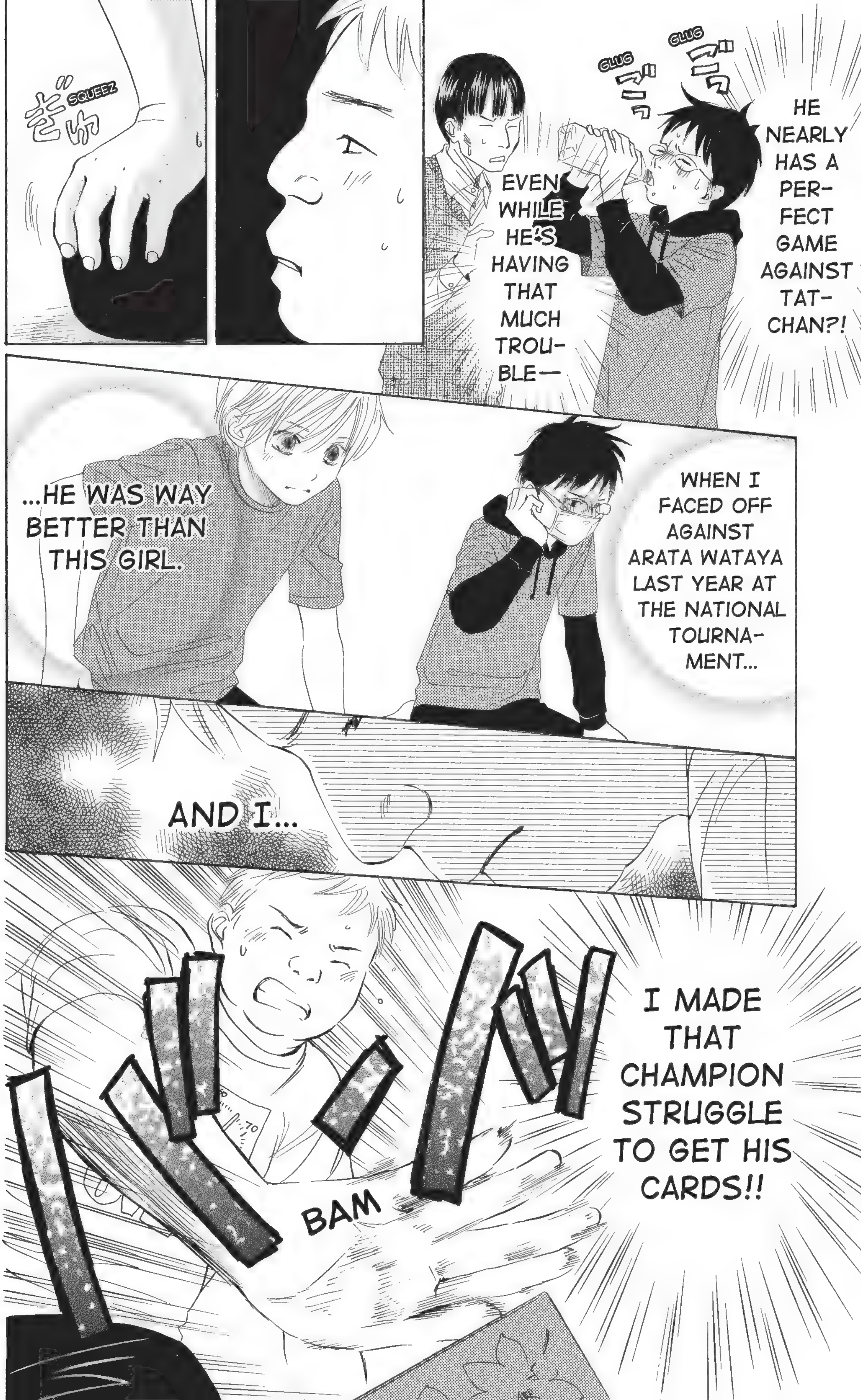

WHOA!
ALL THREE OF THEM GOT THE CARD!
...
WH...
WHAT WAS THAT?
THEY'VE EVEN NAMED THEIR TEAM "CHIHAYA-FURU."
THE OTHER TEAM HAS TO REALIZE THAT'S A CARD THEY'RE ESPECIALLY GOOD AT, AND SHOULD HAVE THEIR GUARD UP.
It was on your side and you still couldn't get it?!
Maybe you should focus, Nishida!
You didn't get it either, Tat-chan!
BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM COULD DEFEND AGAINST THAT.
POW
THIS IS WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING.
TEAM MATCHES HAVE A UNIQUE KIND OF MOMENTUM TO THEM.
TAKE A LOOK, LEERY-KUN.

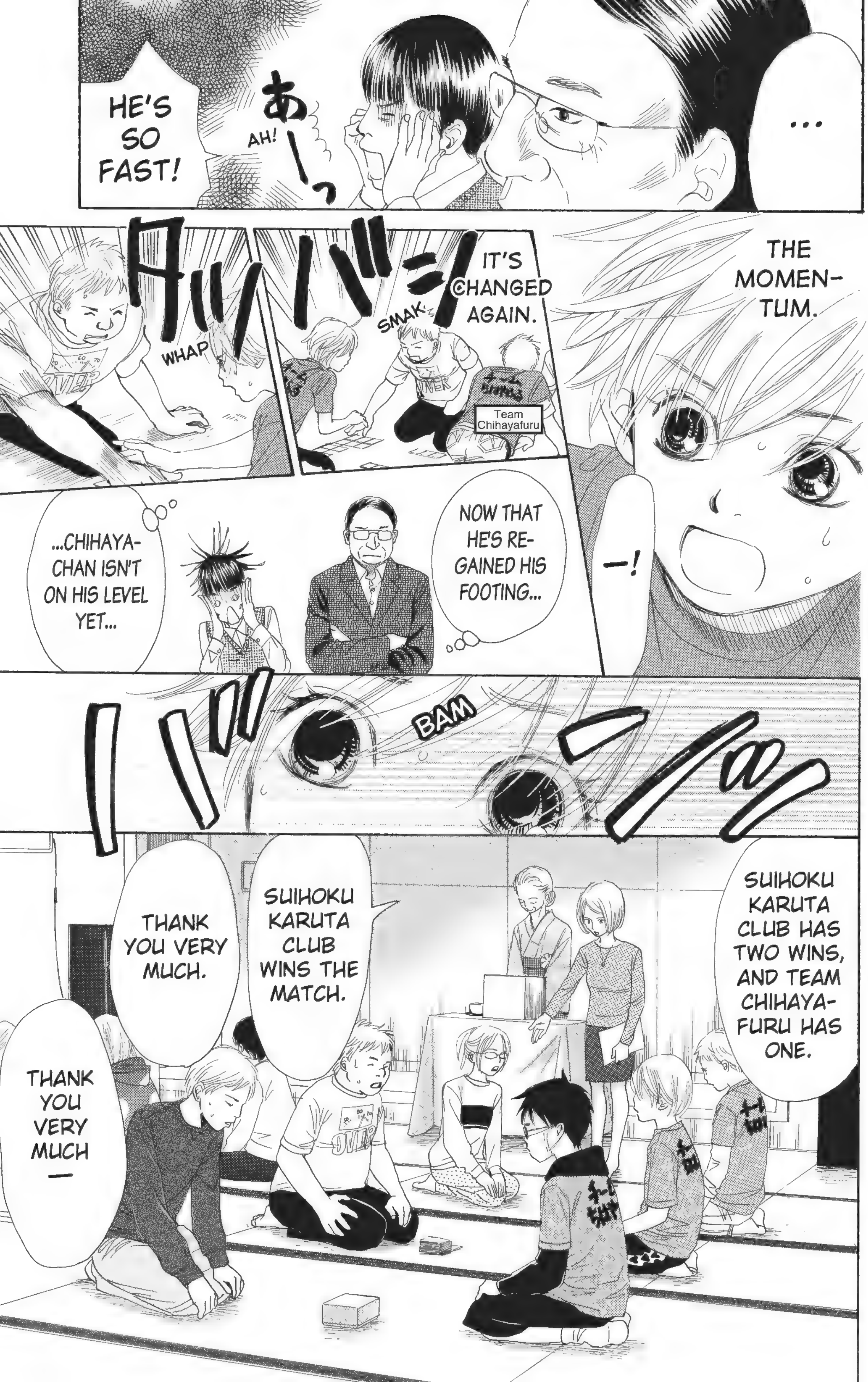

THEY'RE ALL STARTING TO RIDE THAT MOMENTUM.
...
BAM
WHAP

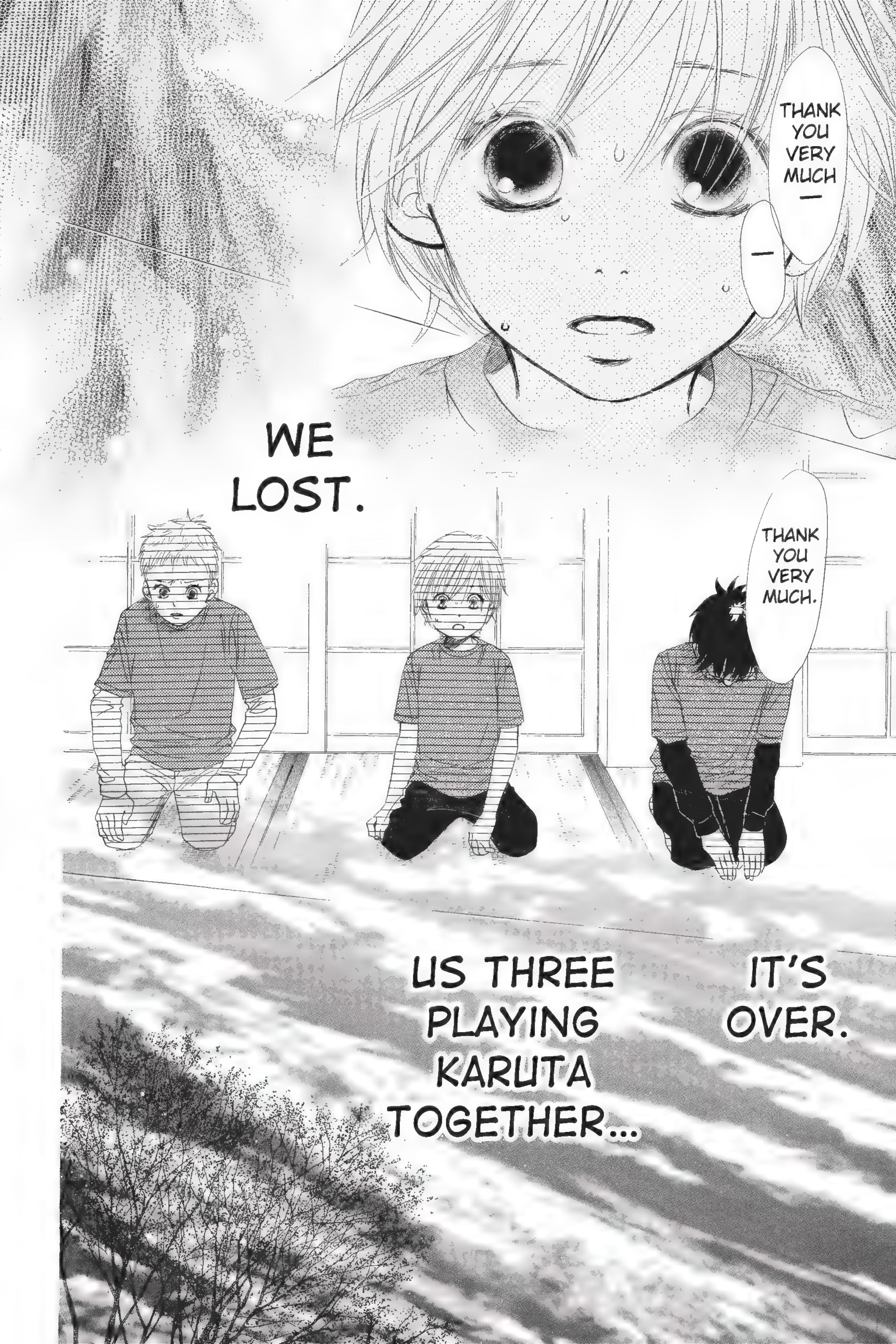

WHAT'S WITH HER?
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THERE WERE SOME CARDS SHE COULDN'T GET AT ALL...
...SHE COMES IN FOR THEM SO FAST!
OH NO.
ARE TAT-CHAN AND ODA UNDER PRESSURE TOO?!
キョロ GLANCE
キョロ GLANCE
WHAT'S THE SCORE DIFFERENCE...?
SHE'S NOT EVEN LOOKING AT ME NOW—
THAT CONCENTRATION.

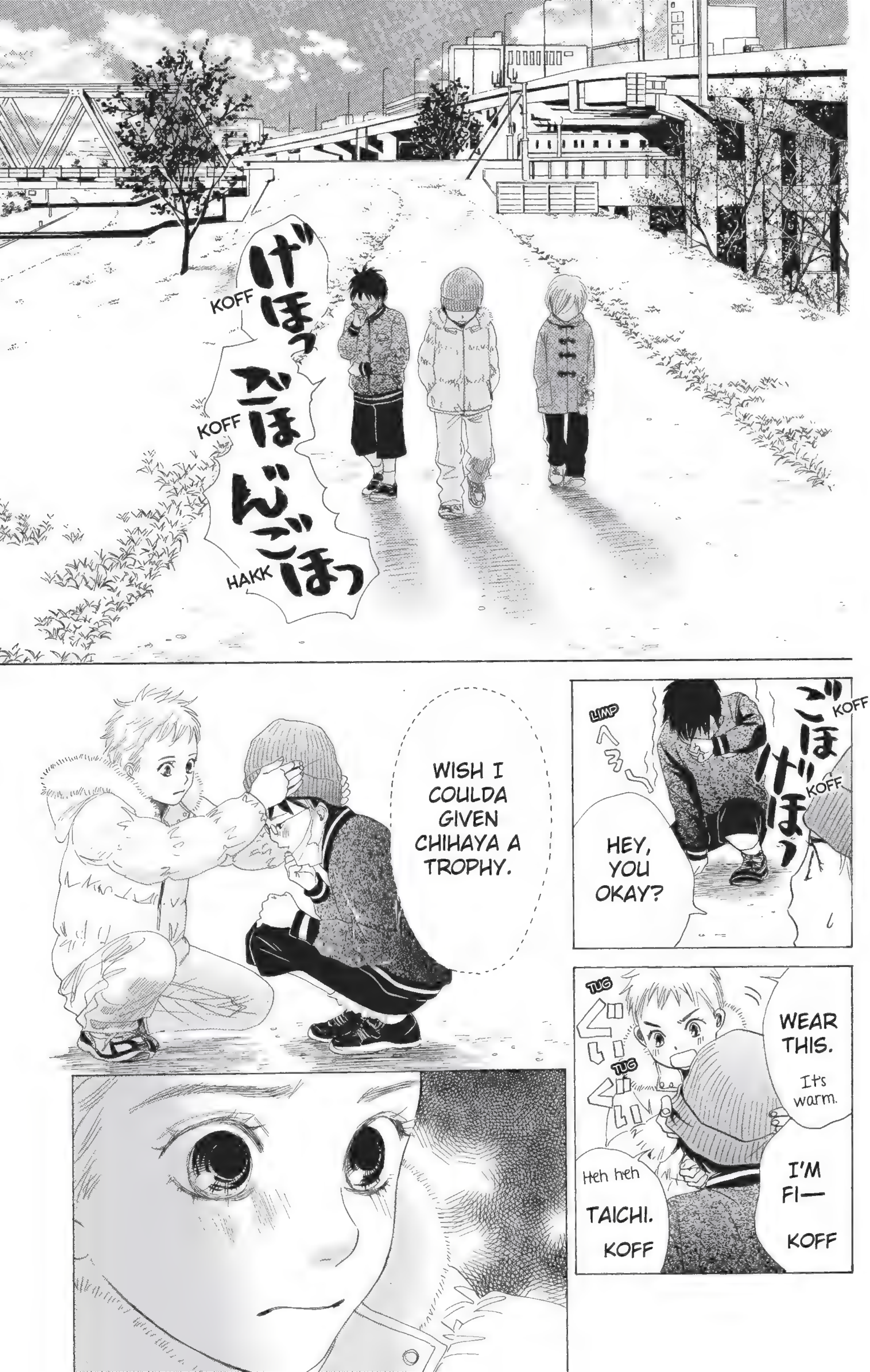

よをうちや
まとひとは
いふなり
THEY KEEP ON DISAPPEARING.
WE ONLY HAVE A HUNDRED OF THEM.
こゑきくと
きそあきは
かなしき
かたふくま
てのつきを
みしかな
BUT THEY KEEP ON DISAPPEARING.
しのふるこ
とのよわり
もそする
I DON'T WANT THIS TO END.

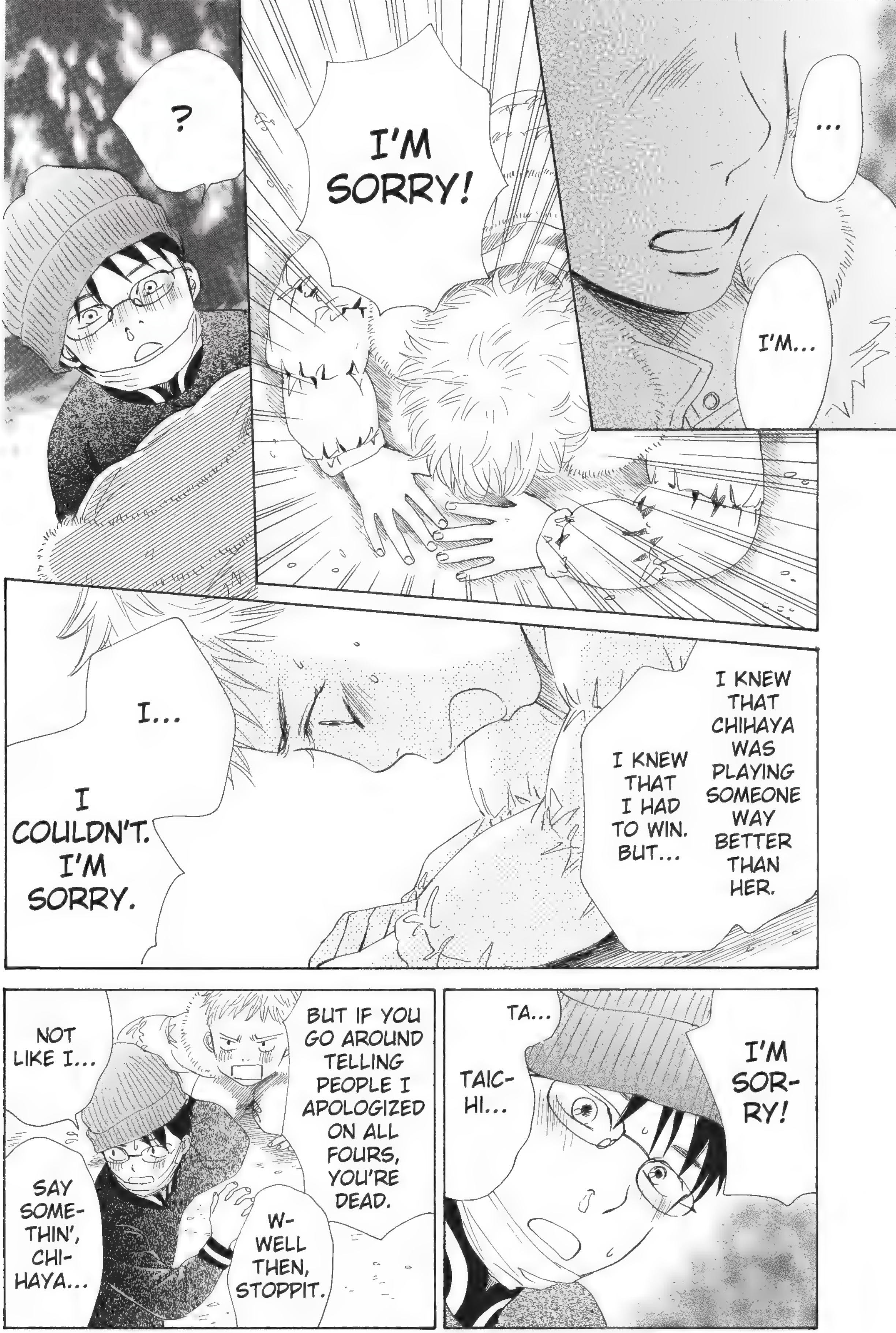

AYASE-SAN IS INCREDIBLE!
SHE'S GETTING QUITE A FEW FROM HER OPPONENT'S SIDE!
THAT ROUND BOY HAS LOST HIS TEMPO.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, NISHIDA-KUN?
ARE YOU REALLY LETTING SOME TOTAL AMATEUR BULLY YOU?
SHUT UP!!
IT'S HARD TO PLAY AGAINST HER FOR SOME REASON.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T LOSE TO THIS GIRL.
MY TEACHERS AND MY SENIORS ARE ALL WATCHING.
I JUST HAVE TO DISRUPT HER PACE.
IT'S SIMPLE.
I CAN YELL AND SURPRISE HER.
OR I COULD INTENTIONALLY BUMP INTO HER.
ゴホッ KOFF
ゲホッ HAKK
んゲッホ KOFF
ゴッホッ KOFF
ARE YOU OKAY, ARATA?
SZZ-ORRY.
MAY I GET SOME WATER...
HE ONLY HAS ONE LEFT...?!

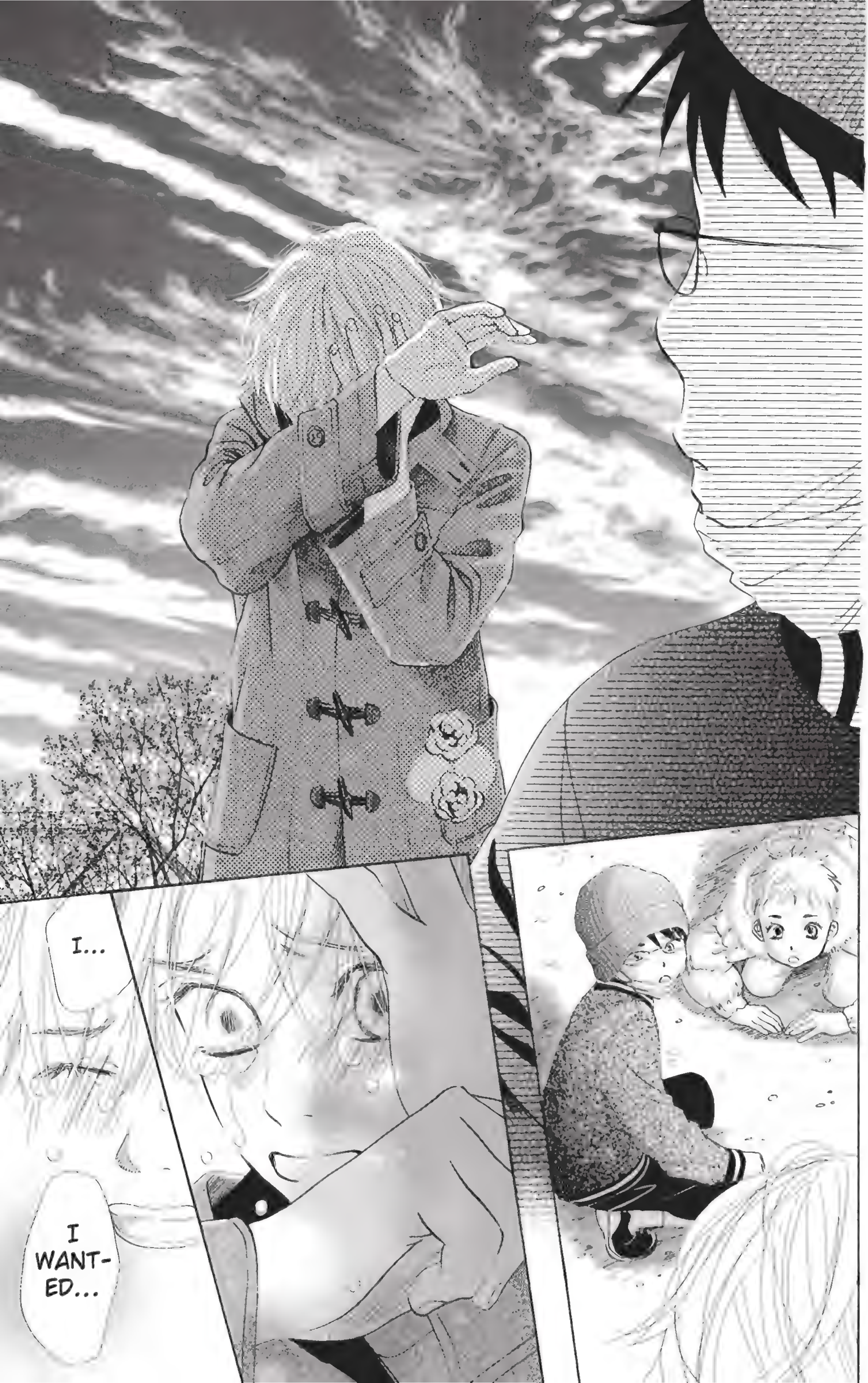

GLUG GLUG
HE NEARLY HAS A PERFECT GAME AGAINST TAT-CHAN?!
EVEN WHILE HE'S HAVING THAT MUCH TROUBLE—
ぎゅ SQUEEZ
WHEN I FACED OFF AGAINST ARATA WATAYA LAST YEAR AT THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT...
...HE WAS WAY BETTER THAN THIS GIRL.
AND I...
I MADE THAT CHAMPION STRUGGLE TO GET HIS CARDS!!
BAM

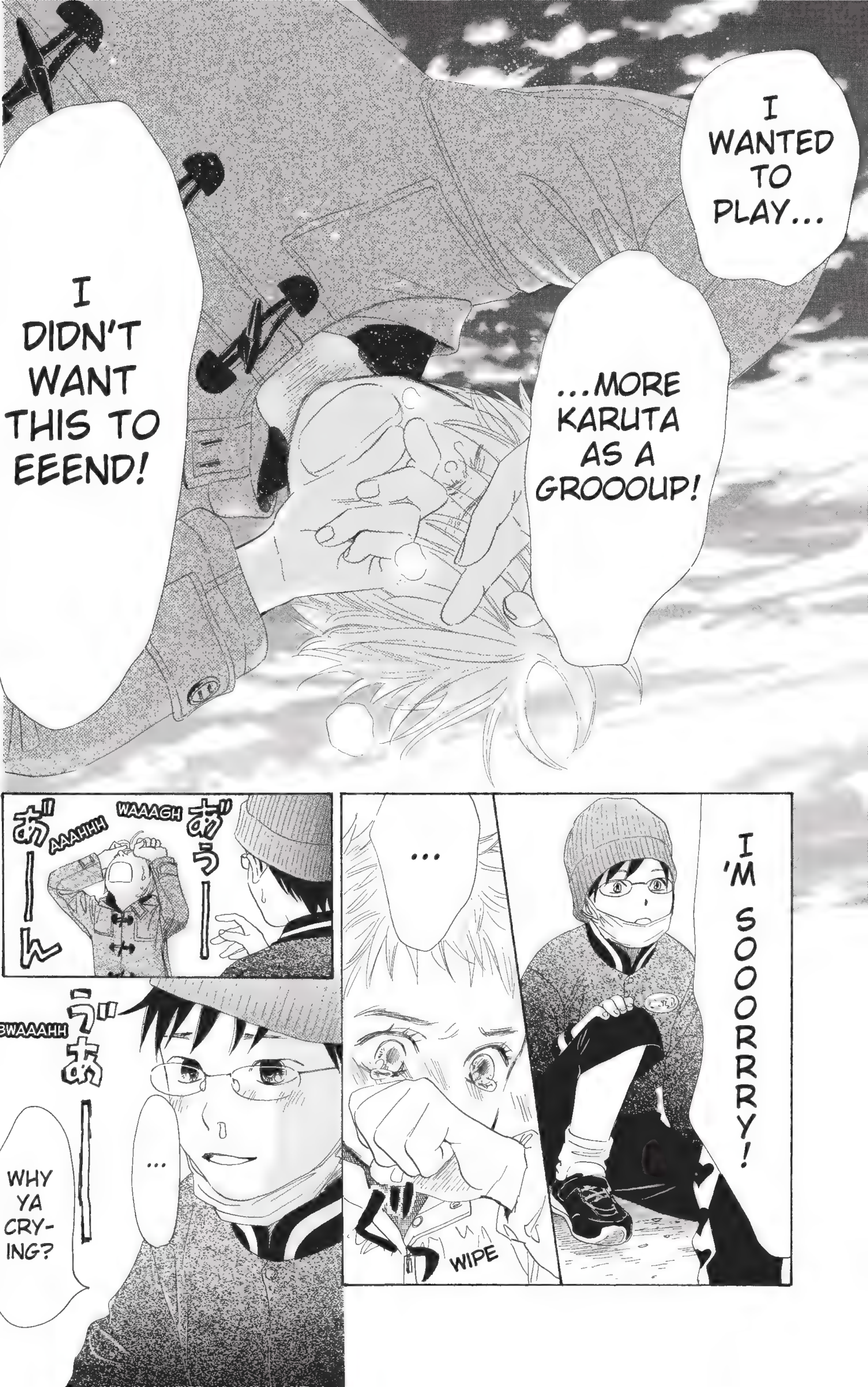

...
あーっ
AH!
HE'S SO FAST!
THE MOMENTUM.
—!
IT'S CHANGED AGAIN.
バシッ
SMAK
Team Chihayafuru
タッ
WHAP
NOW THAT HE'S REGAINED HIS FOOTING...
...CHIHAYA-CHAN ISN'T ON HIS LEVEL YET...
BAM
SUIHOKU KARUTA CLUB HAS TWO WINS, AND TEAM CHIHAYAFURU HAS ONE.
SUIHOKU KARUTA CLUB WINS THE MATCH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH—

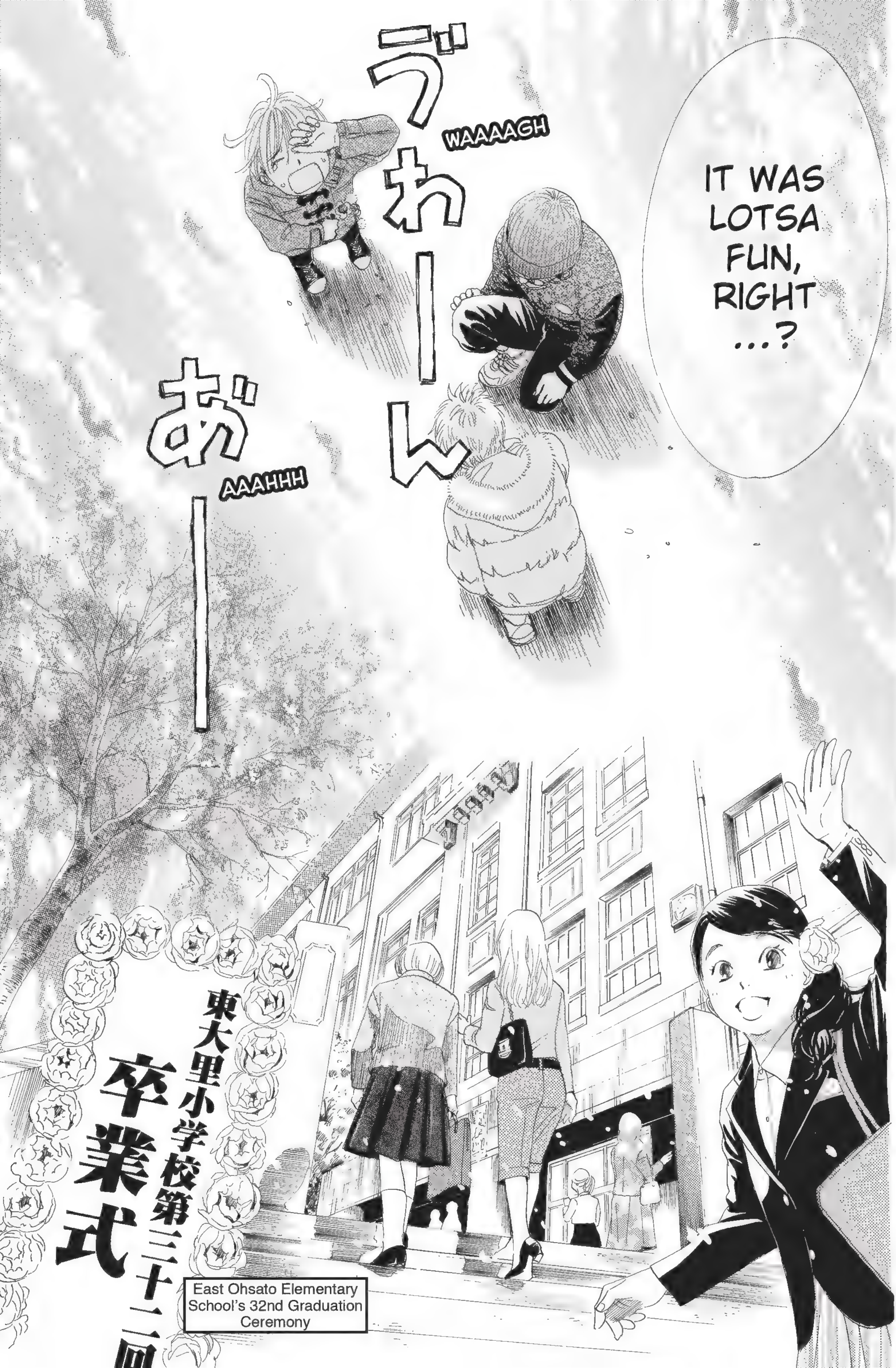

THANK YOU VERY MUCH —
—
WE LOST.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT'S OVER.
US THREE PLAYING KARUTA TOGETHER...

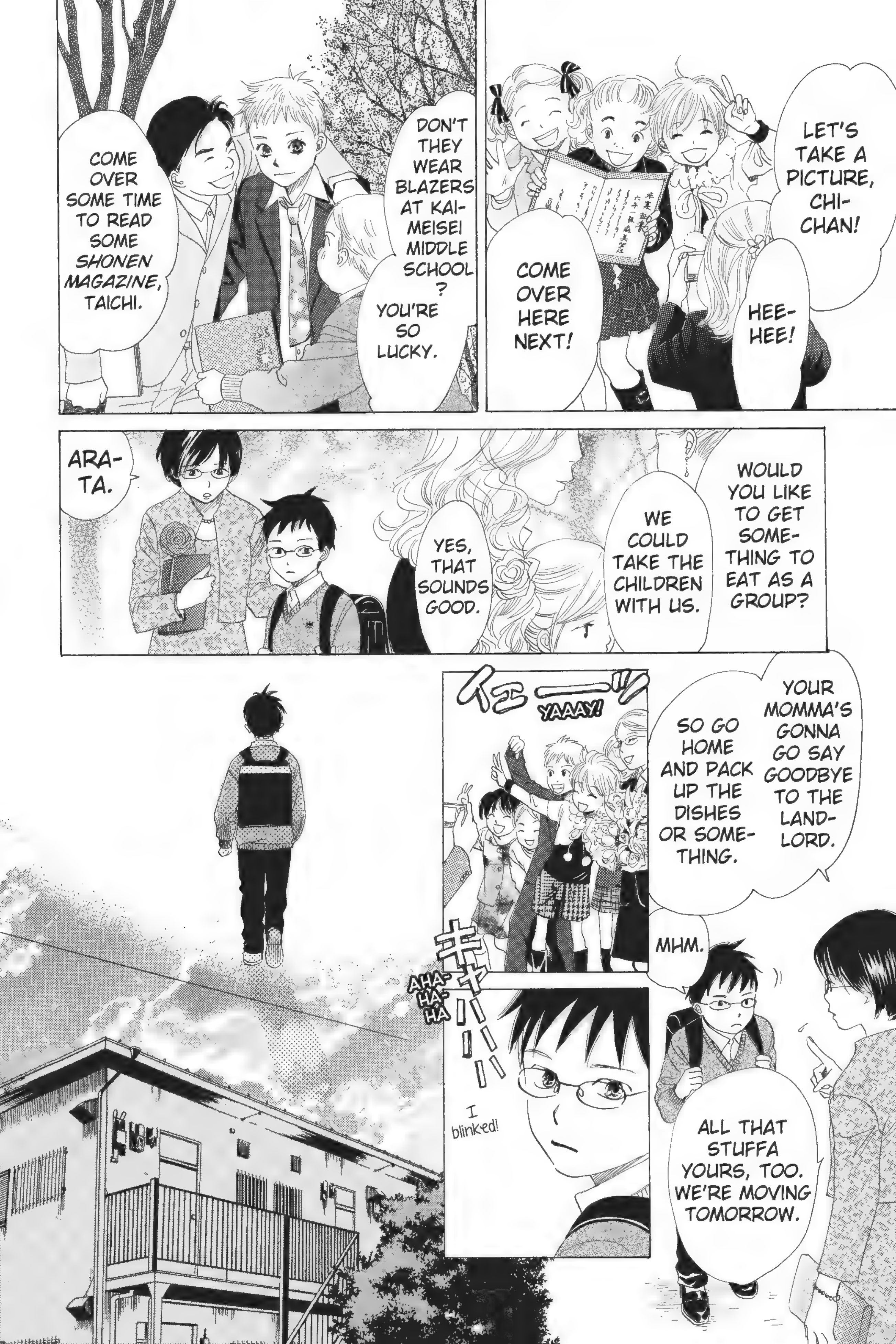

げほっ
KOFF
ごほ
KOFF
んごほっ
HAKK
ごほ
KOFF
げほっ
KOFF
LIMP
へろ～
HEY, YOU OKAY?
WISH I COULDA GIVEN CHIHAYA A TROPHY.
TUG
ぐい
TUG
ぐい
WEAR THIS.
It's warm.
I'M FI—
KOFF
Heh heh
TAICHI.
KOFF

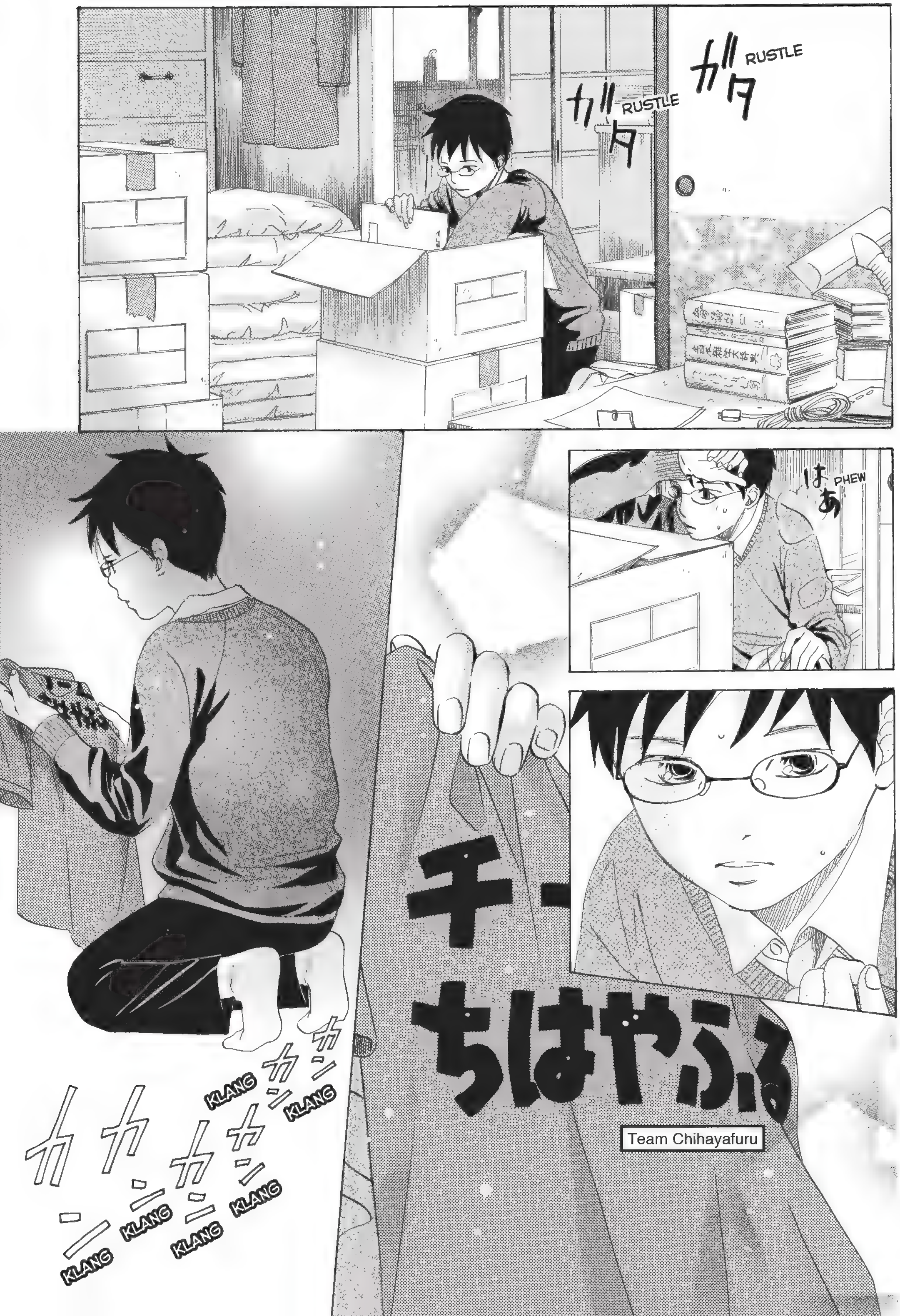

...
I'M...
I'M SORRY!
?
I KNEW THAT CHIHAYA WAS PLAYING SOMEONE WAY BETTER THAN HER.
I KNEW THAT I HAD TO WIN. BUT...
I...
I COULDN'T. I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY!
TA...
TAICHI...
BUT IF YOU GO AROUND TELLING PEOPLE I APOLOGIZED ON ALL FOURS, YOU'RE DEAD.
W-WELL THEN, STOPPIT.
NOT LIKE I...
SAY SOMETHIN', CHIHAYA...

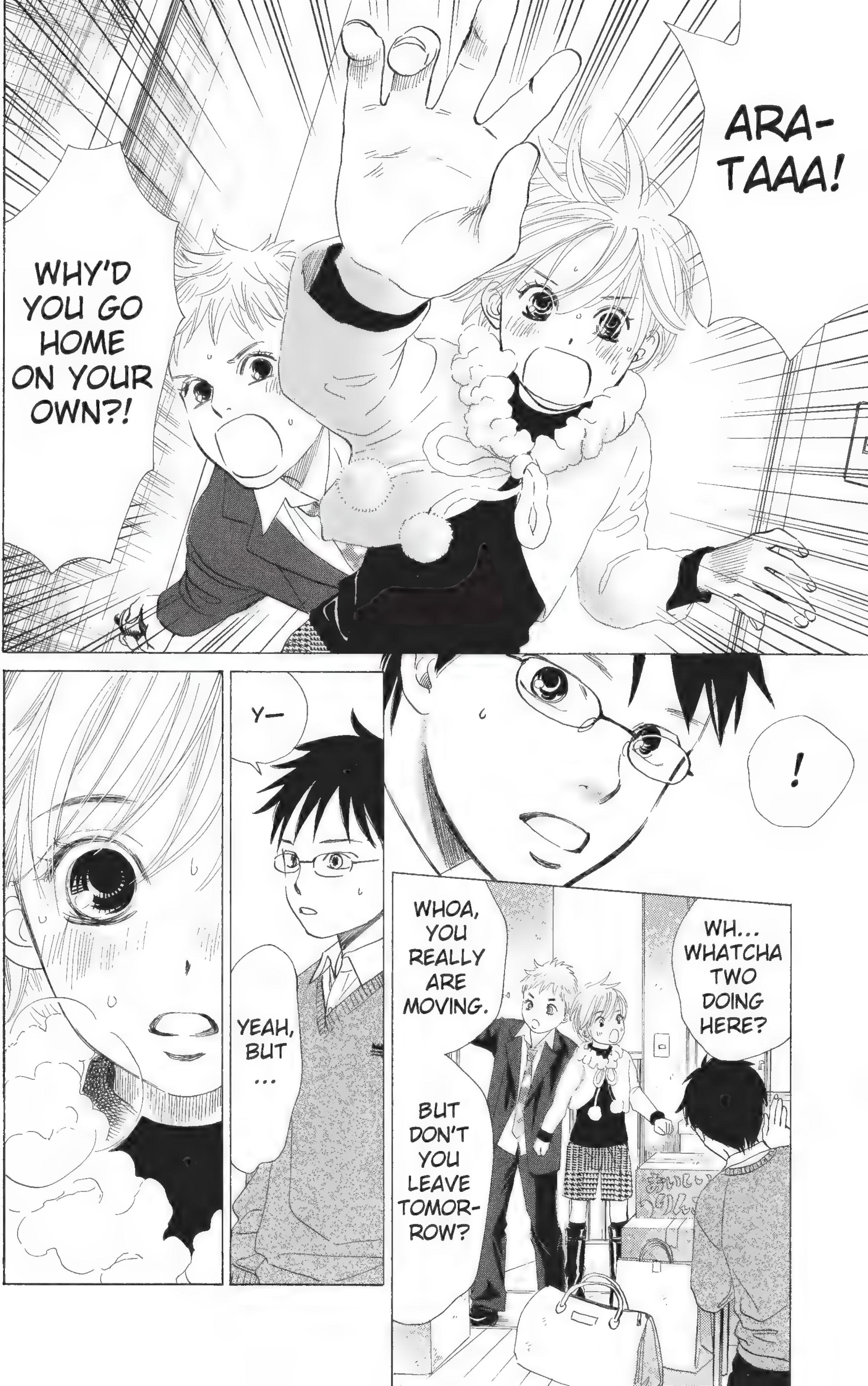

I...
I WANTED...

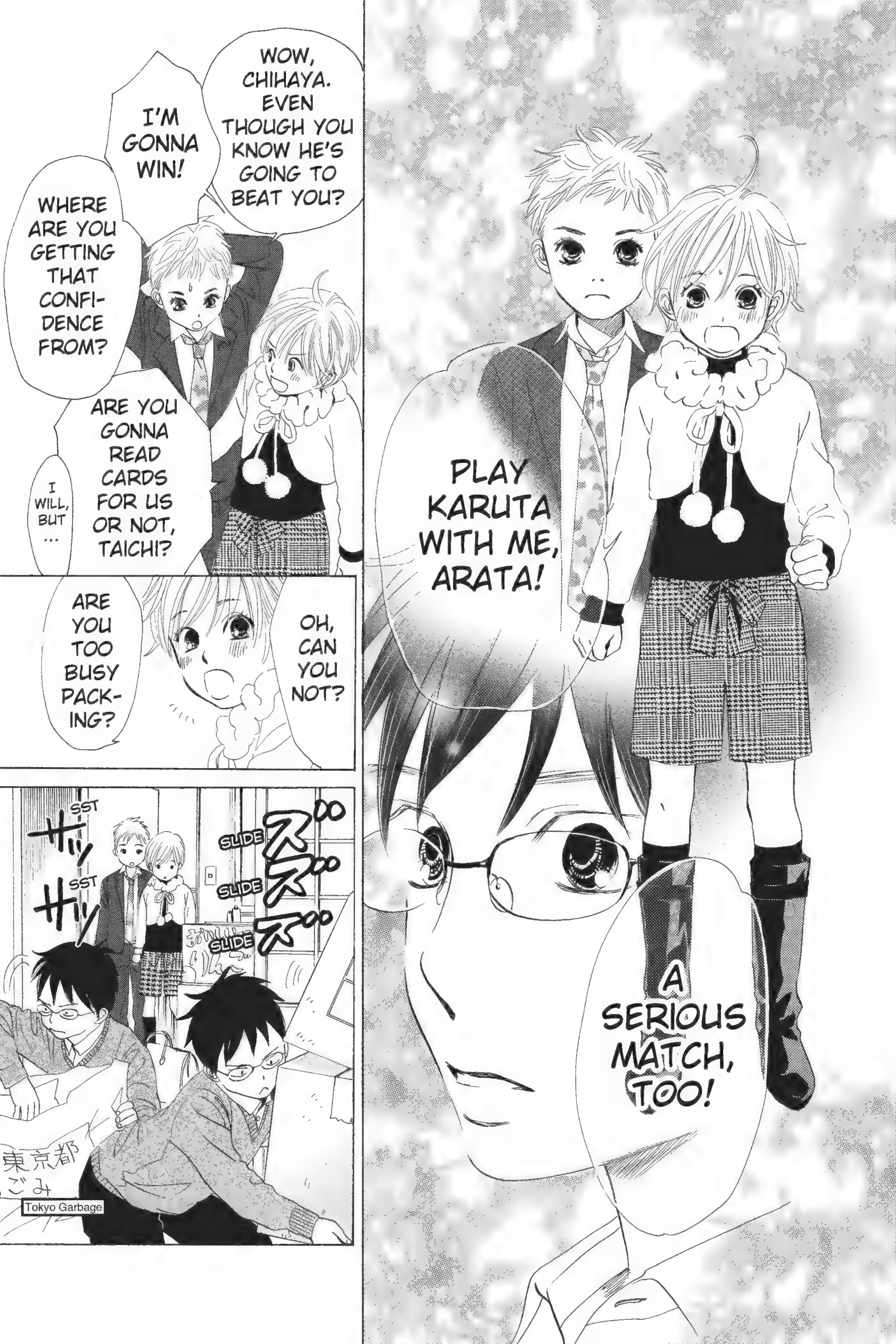

I WANTED TO PLAY...
...MORE KARUTA AS A GROOOUP!
I DIDN'T WANT THIS TO EEEND!
I'M SOOORRRY!
...
ぐっ WIPE
おうー WAAAGH
あ゛ーん AAAHHH
う゛あー BWAAAHH
...
WHY YA CRY-ING?

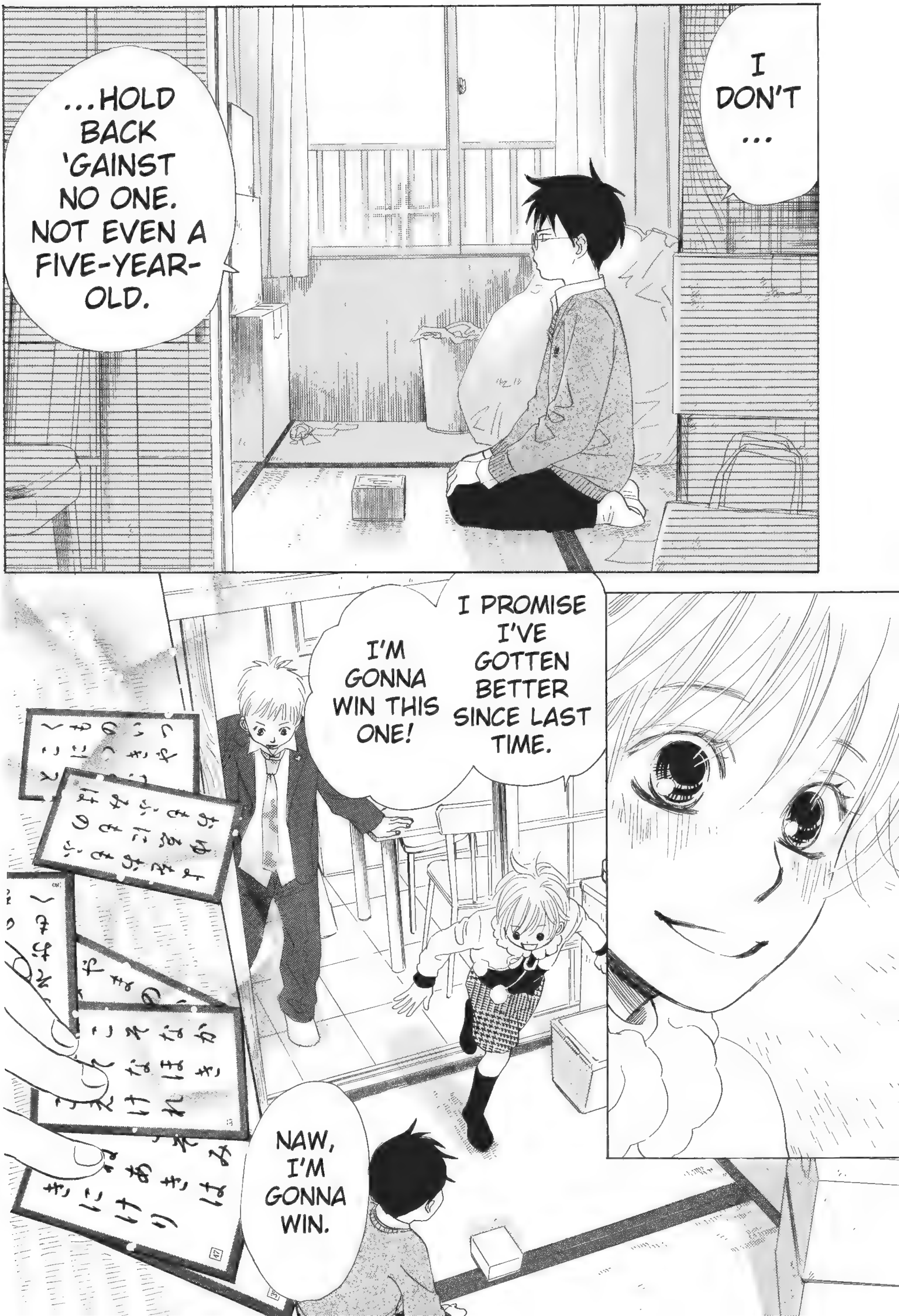

IT WAS LOTSA FUN, RIGHT...?
ゔわーん
WAAAAGH
あ゛ー
AAAHHH
東大里小学校第三十二回
卒業式
East Ohsato Elementary School's 32nd Graduation Ceremony

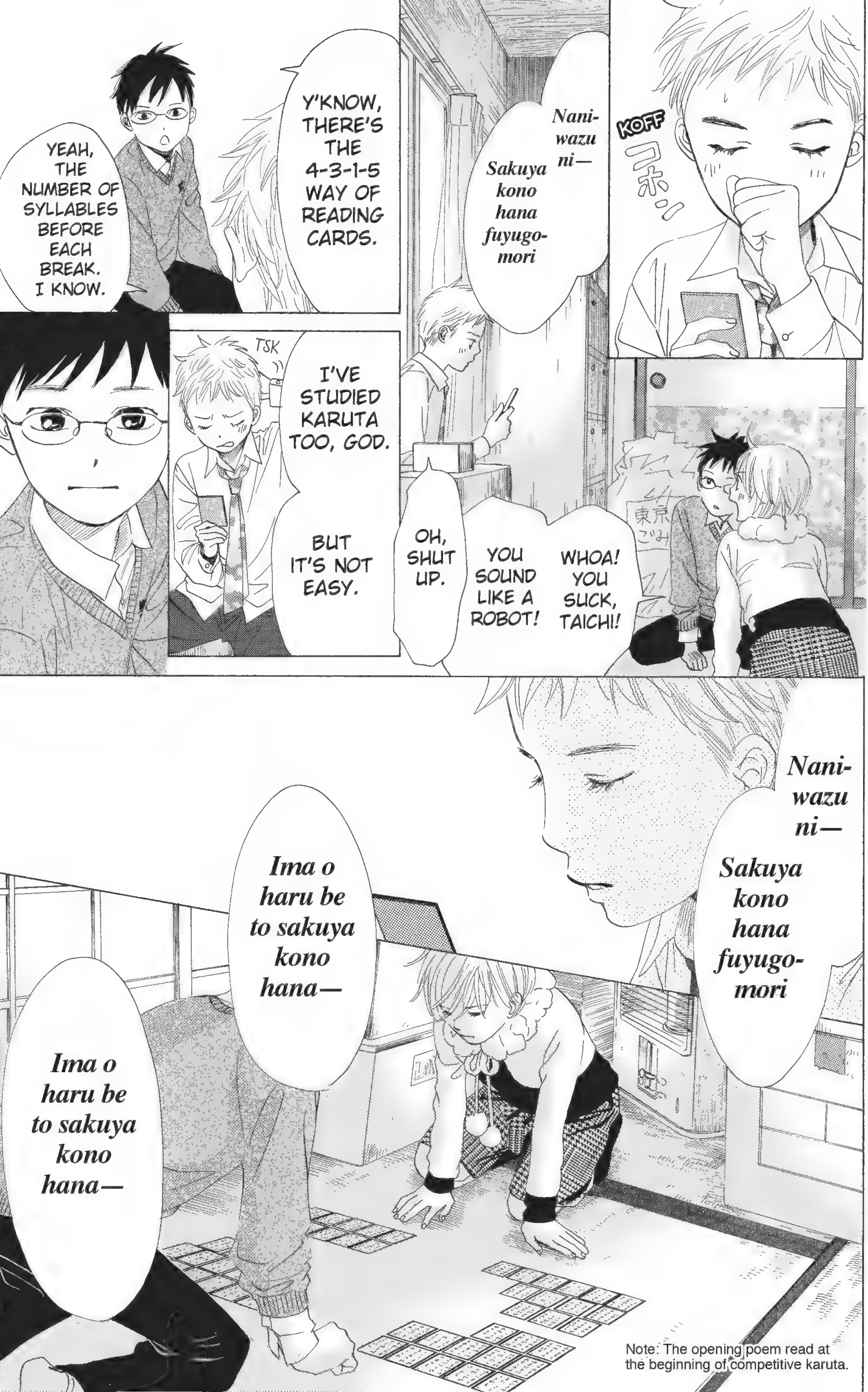

LET'S TAKE A PICTURE, CHI-CHAN!
HEE-HEE!
COME OVER HERE NEXT!
DON'T THEY WEAR BLAZERS AT KAIMEISEI MIDDLE SCHOOL?
YOU'RE SO LUCKY.
COME OVER SOME TIME TO READ SOME *SHONEN MAGAZINE*, TAICHI.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT AS A GROUP?
WE COULD TAKE THE CHILDREN WITH US.
YES, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
ARA-TA.
YOUR MOMMA'S GONNA GO SAY GOODBYE TO THE LANDLORD.
SO GO HOME AND PACK UP THE DISHES OR SOMETHING.
イエーーッ
YAAAY!
MHM.
ALL THAT STUFFA YOURS, TOO. WE'RE MOVING TOMORROW.
キャーハハハ
AHA-HA-HA
I blink'ed!


ガタ RUSTLE
ガタ RUSTLE
はあ PHEW
チー
ちはやふる
Team Chihayafuru
カン KLANG
カン KLANG
カン KLANG
カン KLANG
カン KLANG
カン KLANG

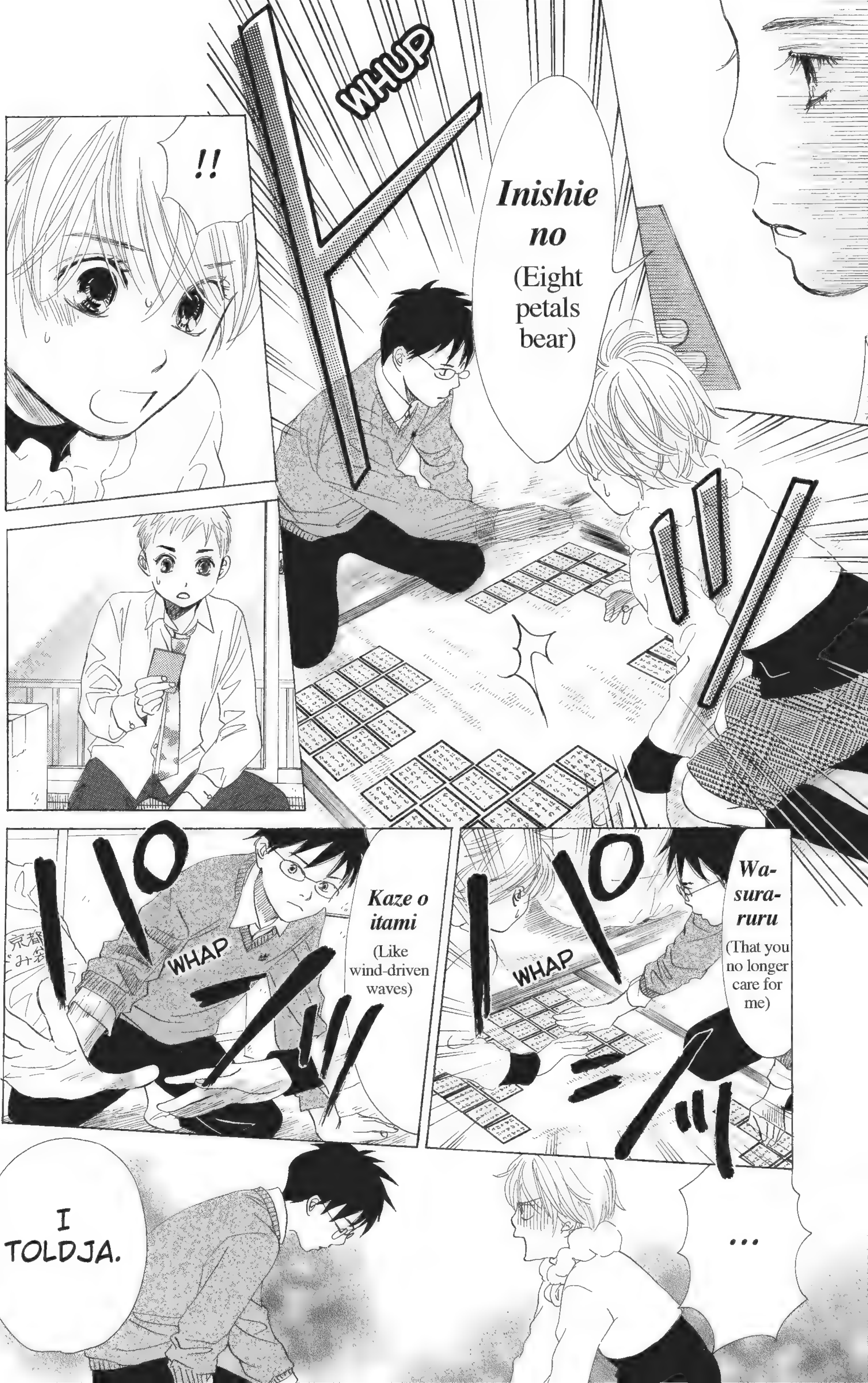

ARA-TAAA!
WHY'D YOU GO HOME ON YOUR OWN?!
!
WH... WHATCHA TWO DOING HERE?
WHOA, YOU REALLY ARE MOVING.
BUT DON'T YOU LEAVE TOMORROW?
Y—
YEAH, BUT ...

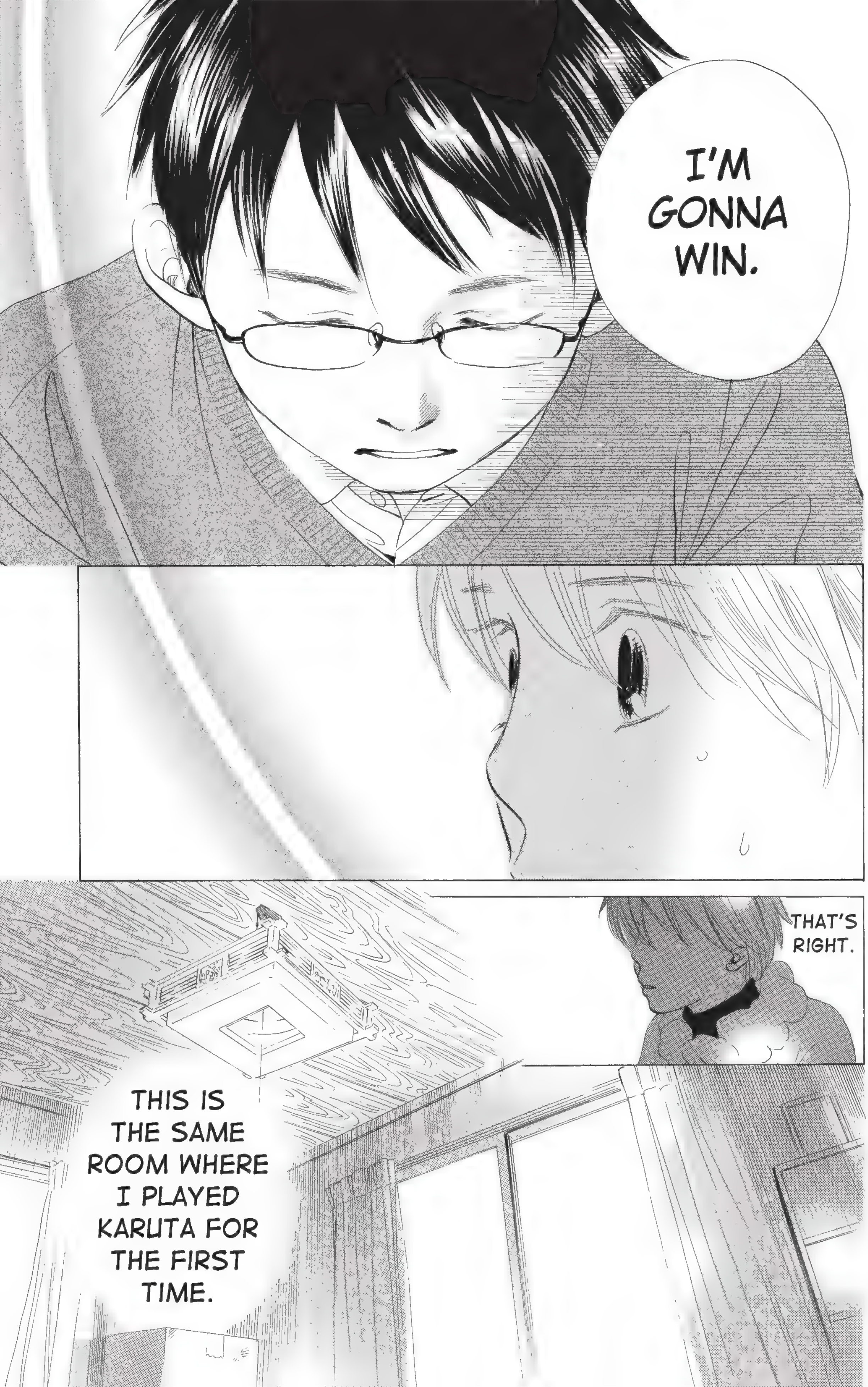

WOW, CHIHAYA. EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW HE'S GOING TO BEAT YOU?
I'M GONNA WIN!
WHERE ARE YOU GETTING THAT CONFIDENCE FROM?
ARE YOU GONNA READ CARDS FOR US OR NOT, TAICHI?
I WILL, BUT ...
OH, CAN YOU NOT?
ARE YOU TOO BUSY PACKING?
スー SLIDE
スー SLIDE
スー SLIDE
サッ SST
サッ SST
東京都 ごみ
Tokyo Garbage
PLAY KARUTA WITH ME, ARATA!
A SERIOUS MATCH, TOO!

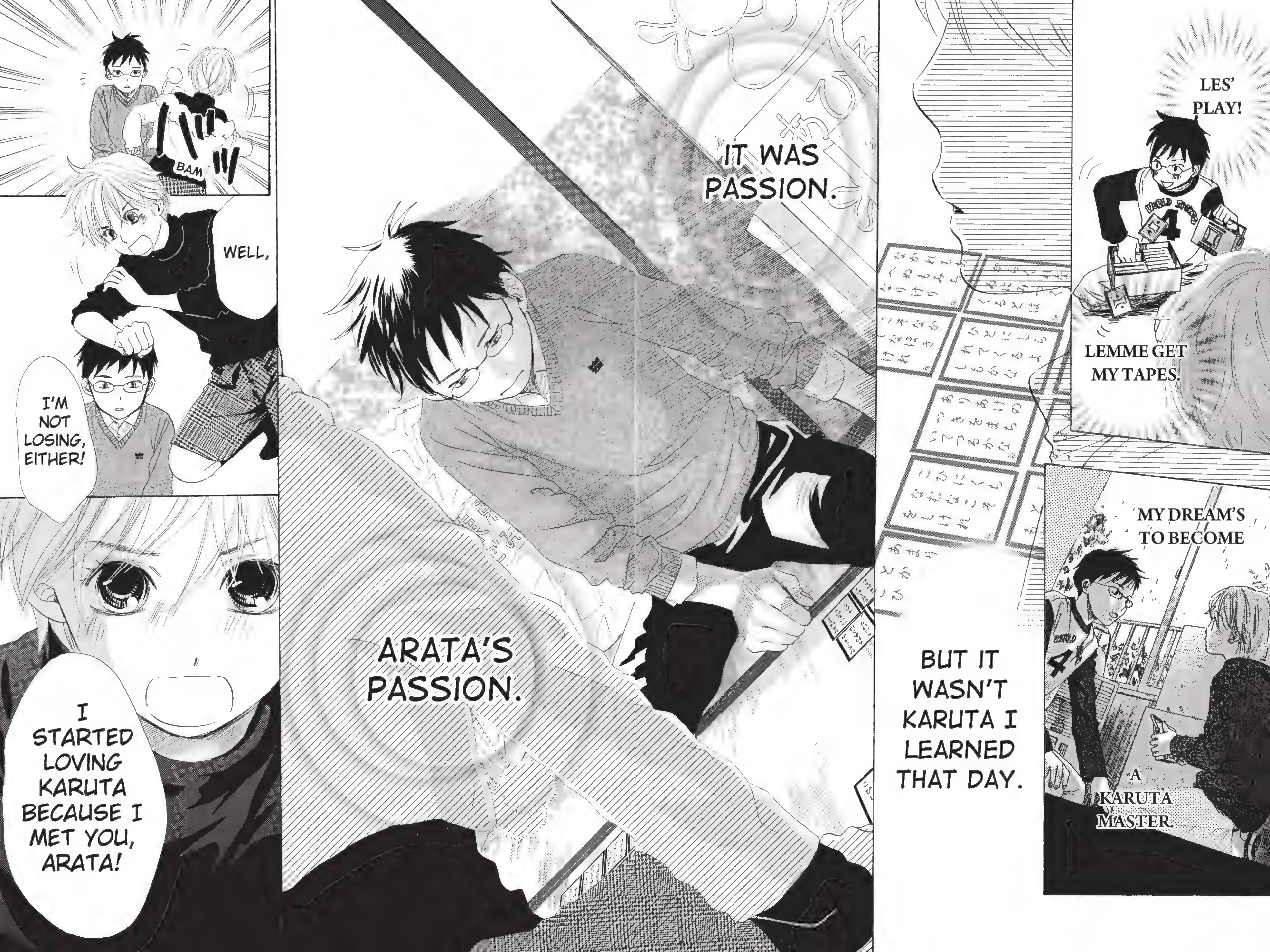

I DON'T ...
...HOLD BACK 'GAINST NO ONE. NOT EVEN A FIVE-YEAR-OLD.
I PROMISE I'VE GOTTEN BETTER SINCE LAST TIME.
I'M GONNA WIN THIS ONE!
NAW, I'M GONNA WIN.

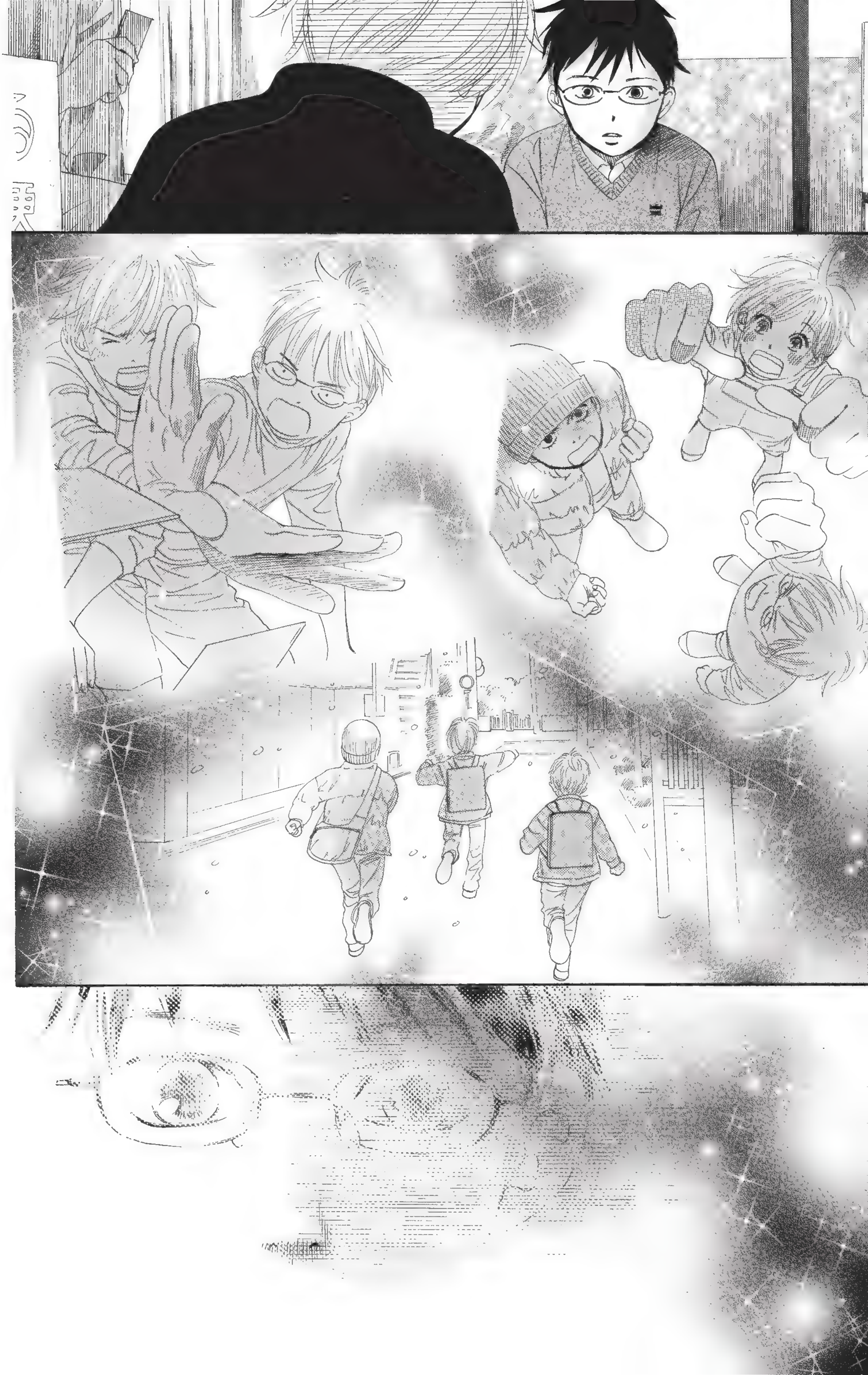

KOFF
コホッ
Nani-wazu ni—
Sakuya kono hana fuyugo-mori
Y'KNOW, THERE'S THE 4-3-1-5 WAY OF READING CARDS.
YEAH, THE NUMBER OF SYLLABLES BEFORE EACH BREAK. I KNOW.
WHOA! YOU SUCK, TAICHI!
YOU SOUND LIKE A ROBOT!
OH, SHUT UP.
TSK
I'VE STUDIED KARUTA TOO, GOD.
BUT IT'S NOT EASY.
Nani-wazu ni—
Sakuya kono hana fuyugo-mori
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana—
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana—

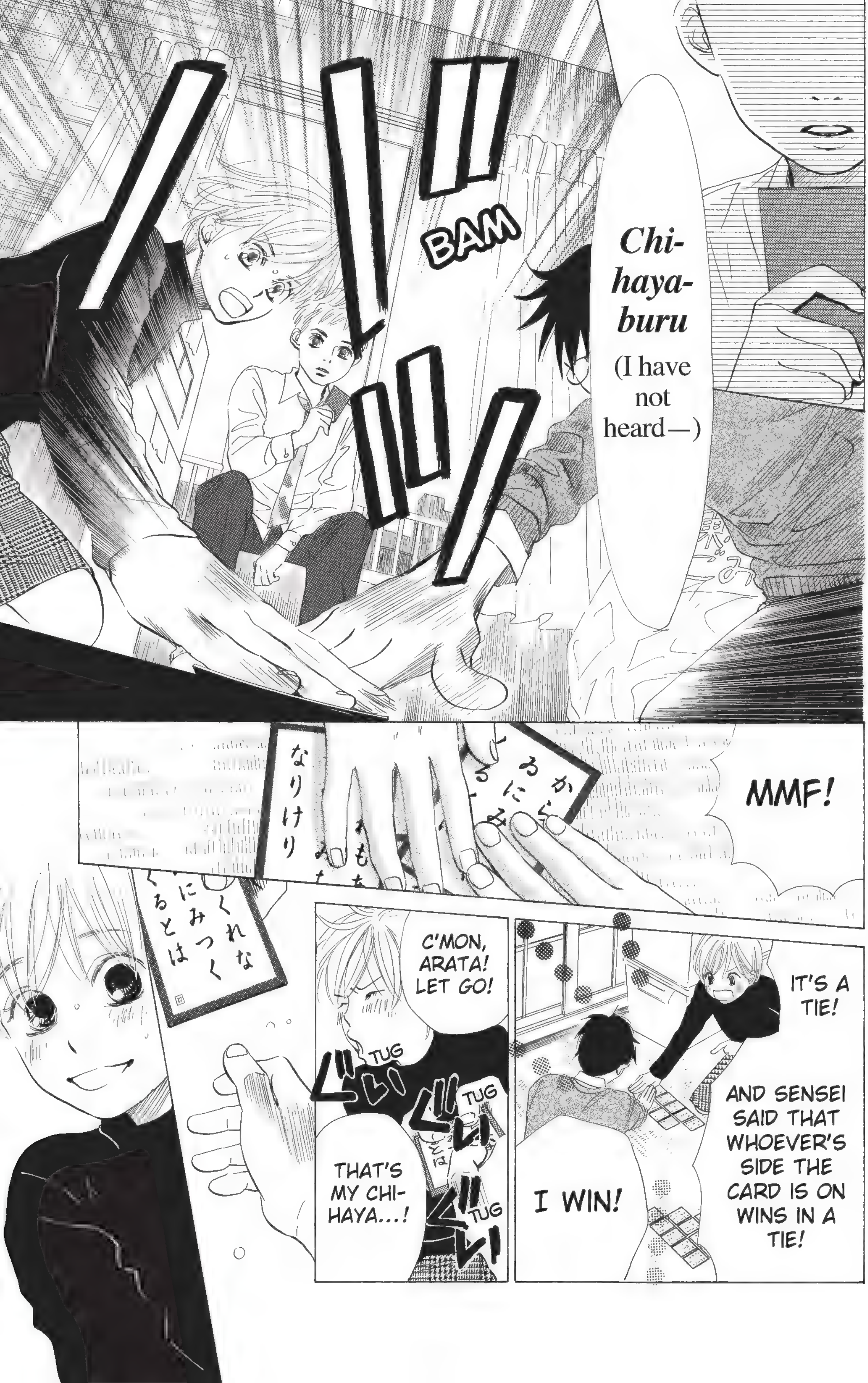
Note: The opening poem read at the beginning of competitive karuta.

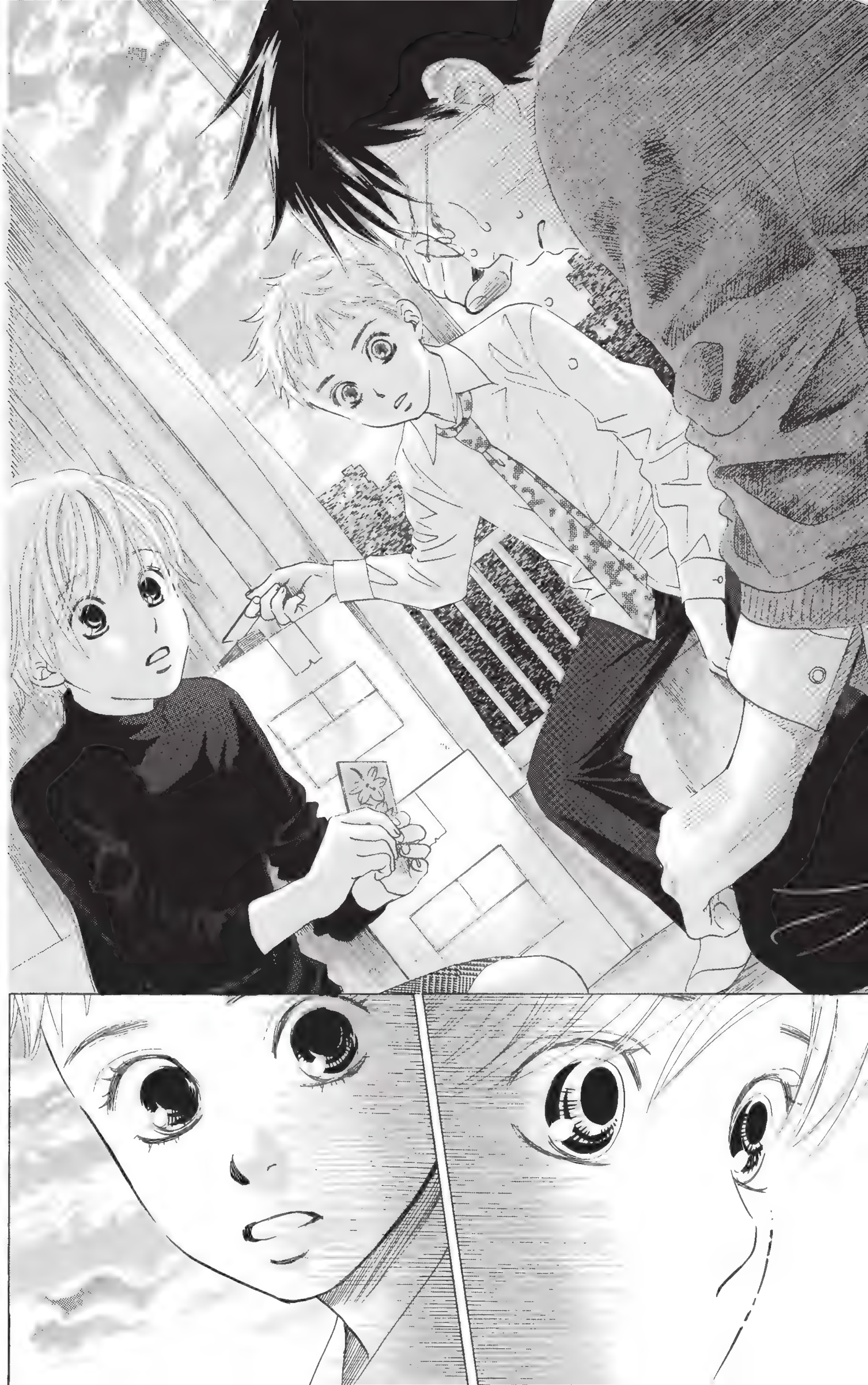

WHUP
Inishie no
(Eight petals bear)
!!
Wa-sura-ruru
(That you no longer care for me)
WHAP
Kaze o itami
(Like wind-driven waves)
WHAP
…
I TOLDJA.

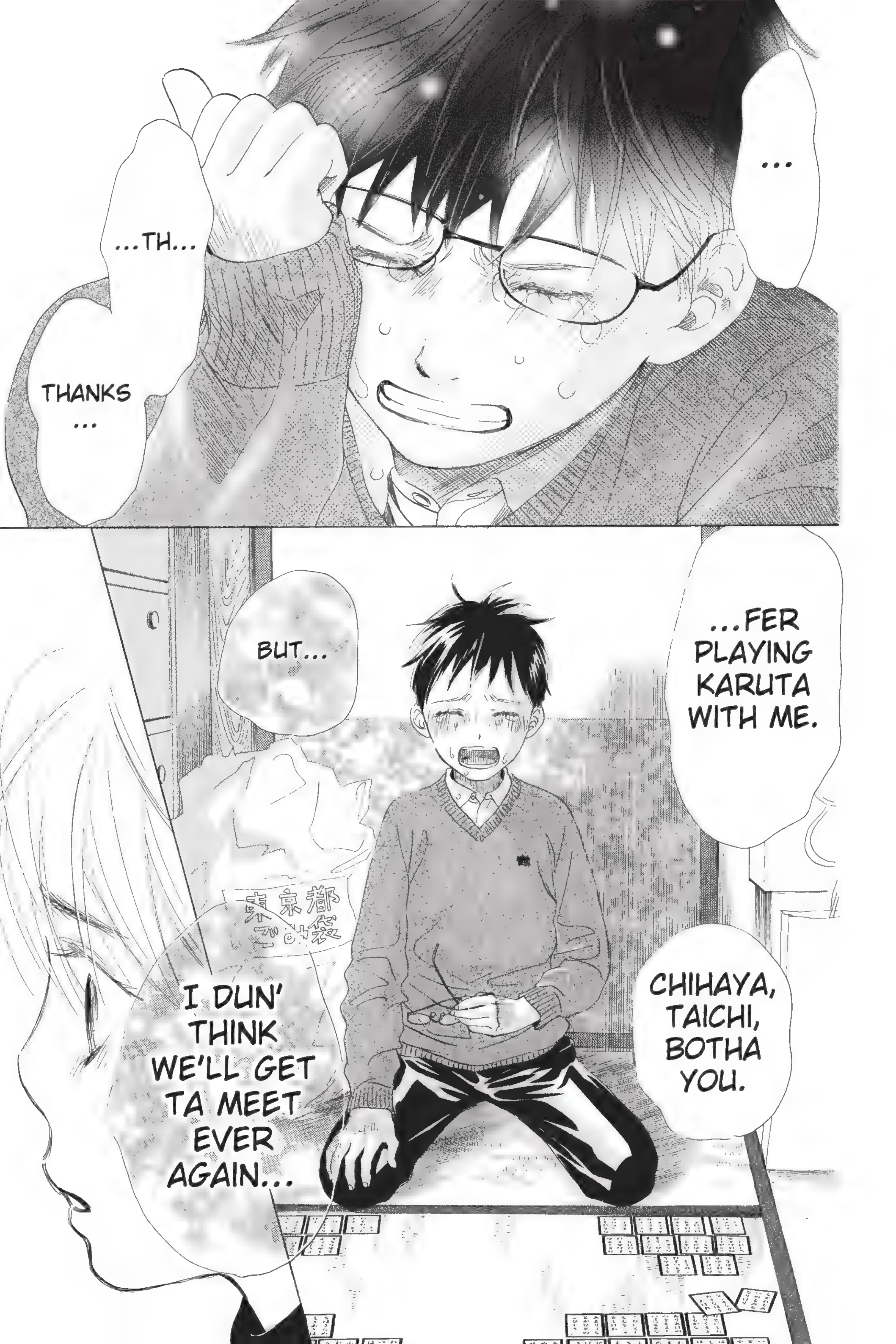

I'M GONNA WIN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS THE SAME ROOM WHERE I PLAYED KARUTA FOR THE FIRST TIME.

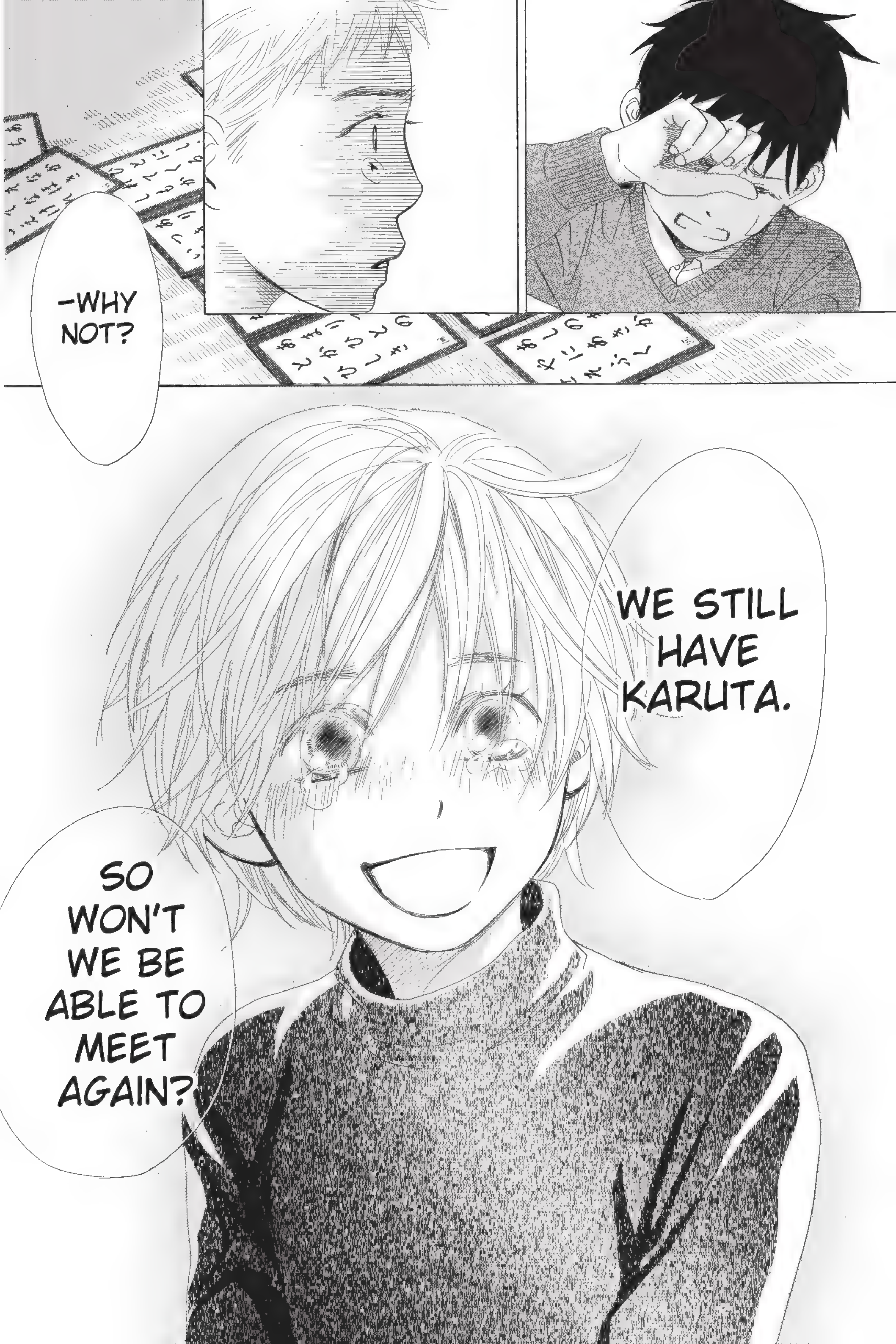

LES' PLAY!
LEMME GET MY TAPES.
MY DREAM'S TO BECOME A KARUTA MASTER.
BUT IT WASN'T KARUTA I LEARNED THAT DAY.
IT WAS PASSION.
ARATA'S PASSION.
BAM
WELL,
I'M NOT LOSING, EITHER!
I STARTED LOVING KARUTA BECAUSE I MET YOU, ARATA!

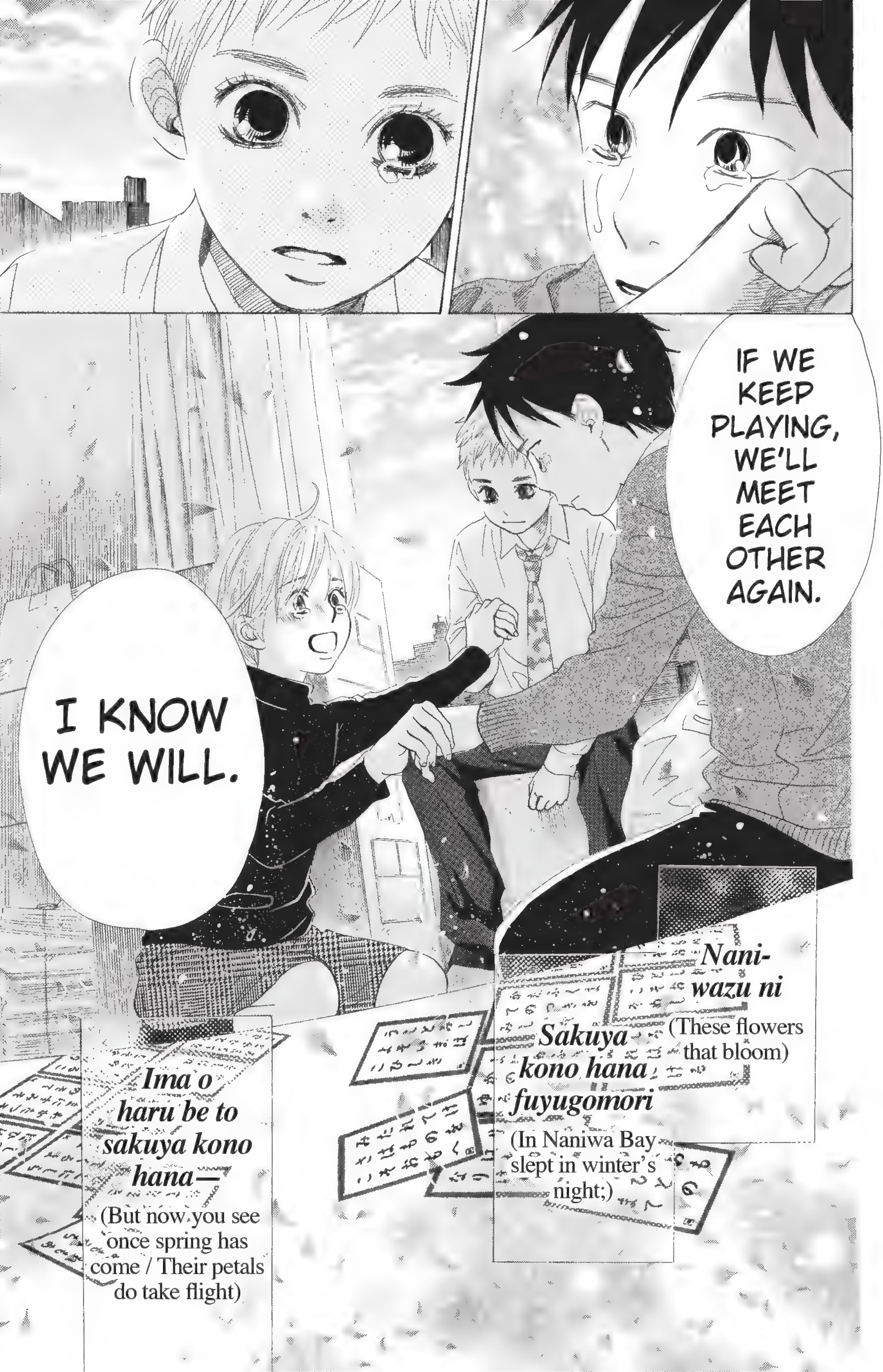


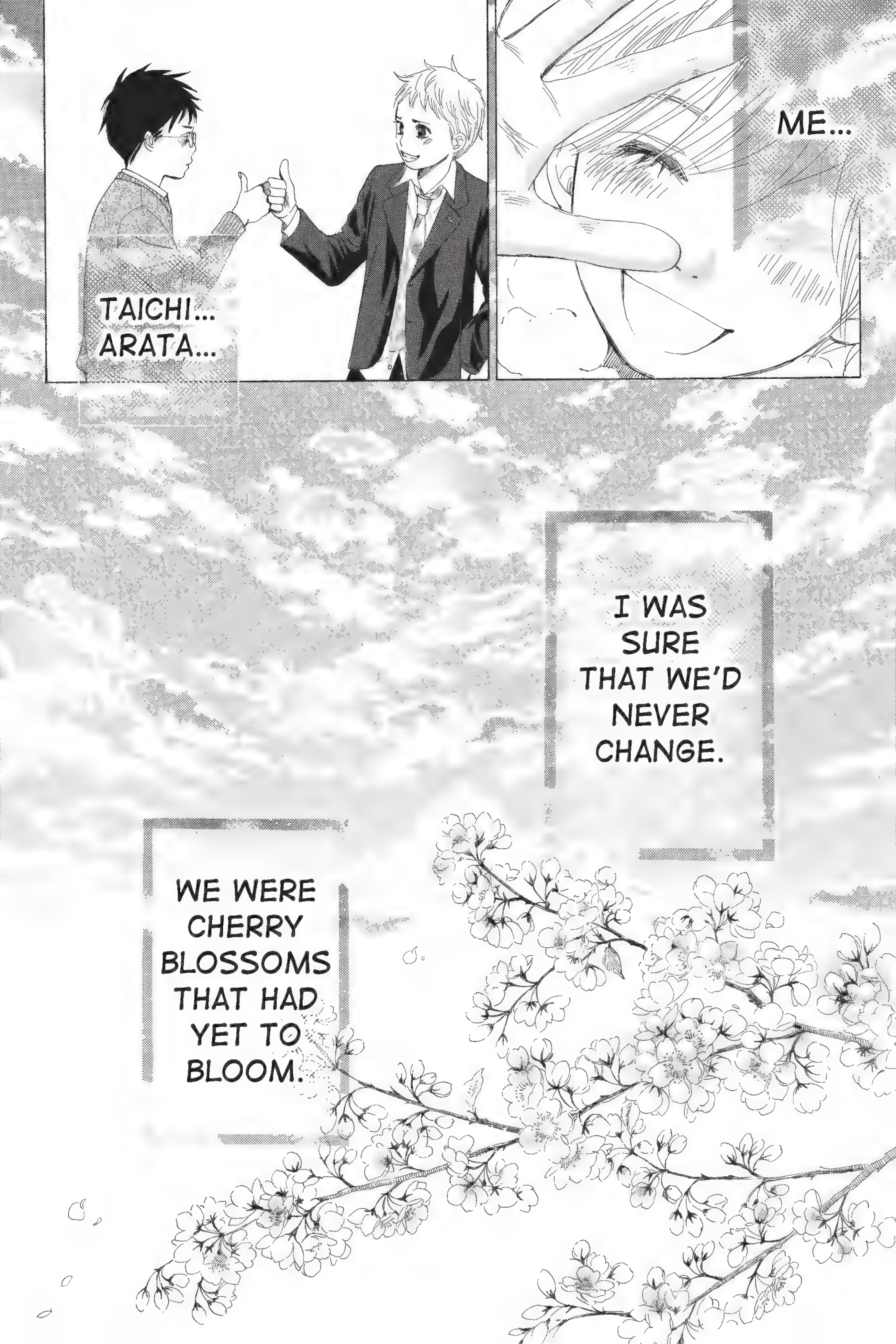

Chi-haya-buru
(I have not heard—)
BAM
から
るにみ
なりけり
MMF!
IT'S A TIE!
AND SENSEI SAID THAT WHOEVER'S SIDE THE CARD IS ON WINS IN A TIE!
I WIN!
C'MON, ARATA! LET GO!
TUG
TUG
TUG
THAT'S MY CHI-HAYA...!
くれな
にみつく
くるとは




...
...TH...
THANKS ...
...FER PLAYING KARUTA WITH ME.
BUT...
東京都ごみ袋
CHIHAYA, TAICHI, BOTHA YOU.
I DUN' THINK WE'LL GET TA MEET EVER AGAIN...


-WHY NOT?
WE STILL HAVE KARUTA.
SO WON'T WE BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN?

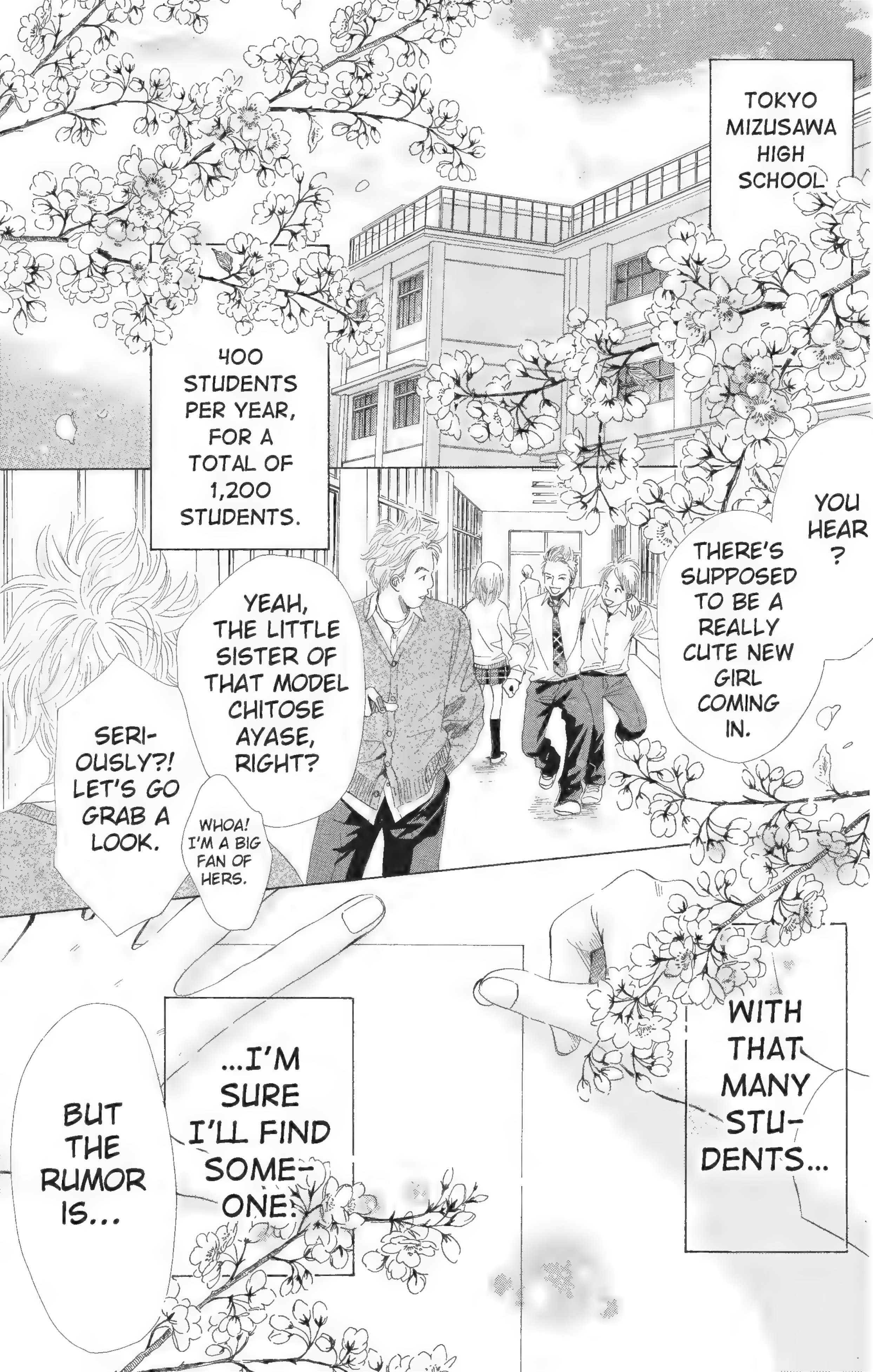

IF WE KEEP PLAYING, WE'LL MEET EACH OTHER AGAIN.
I KNOW WE WILL.
Naniwazu ni (These flowers that bloom)
Sakuya kono hana fuyugomori (In Naniwa Bay slept in winter's night;)
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana— (But now you see once spring has come / Their petals do take flight)

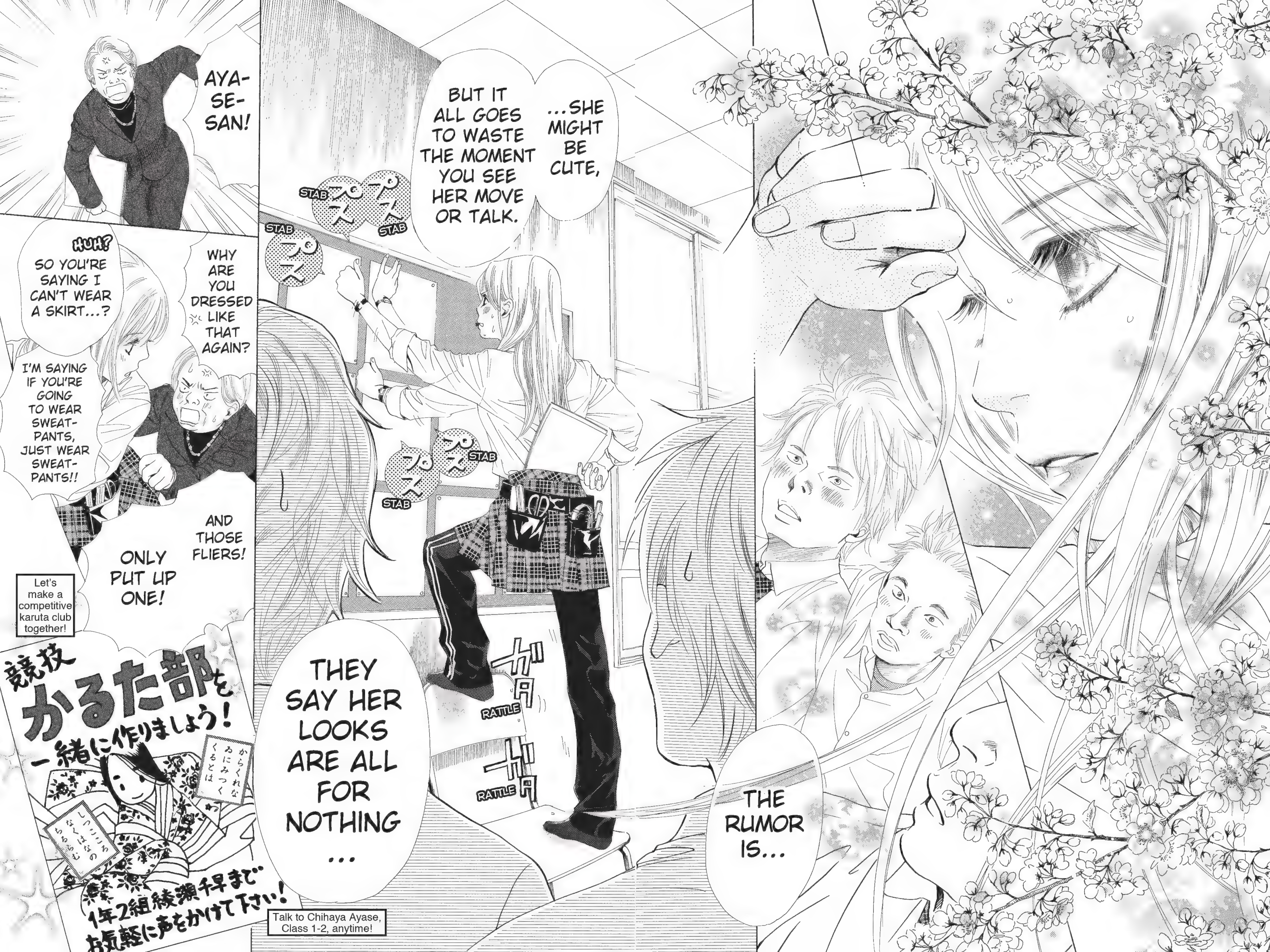

TAICHI... ARATA...
ME...
I WAS SURE THAT WE'D NEVER CHANGE.
WE WERE CHERRY BLOSSOMS THAT HAD YET TO BLOOM.

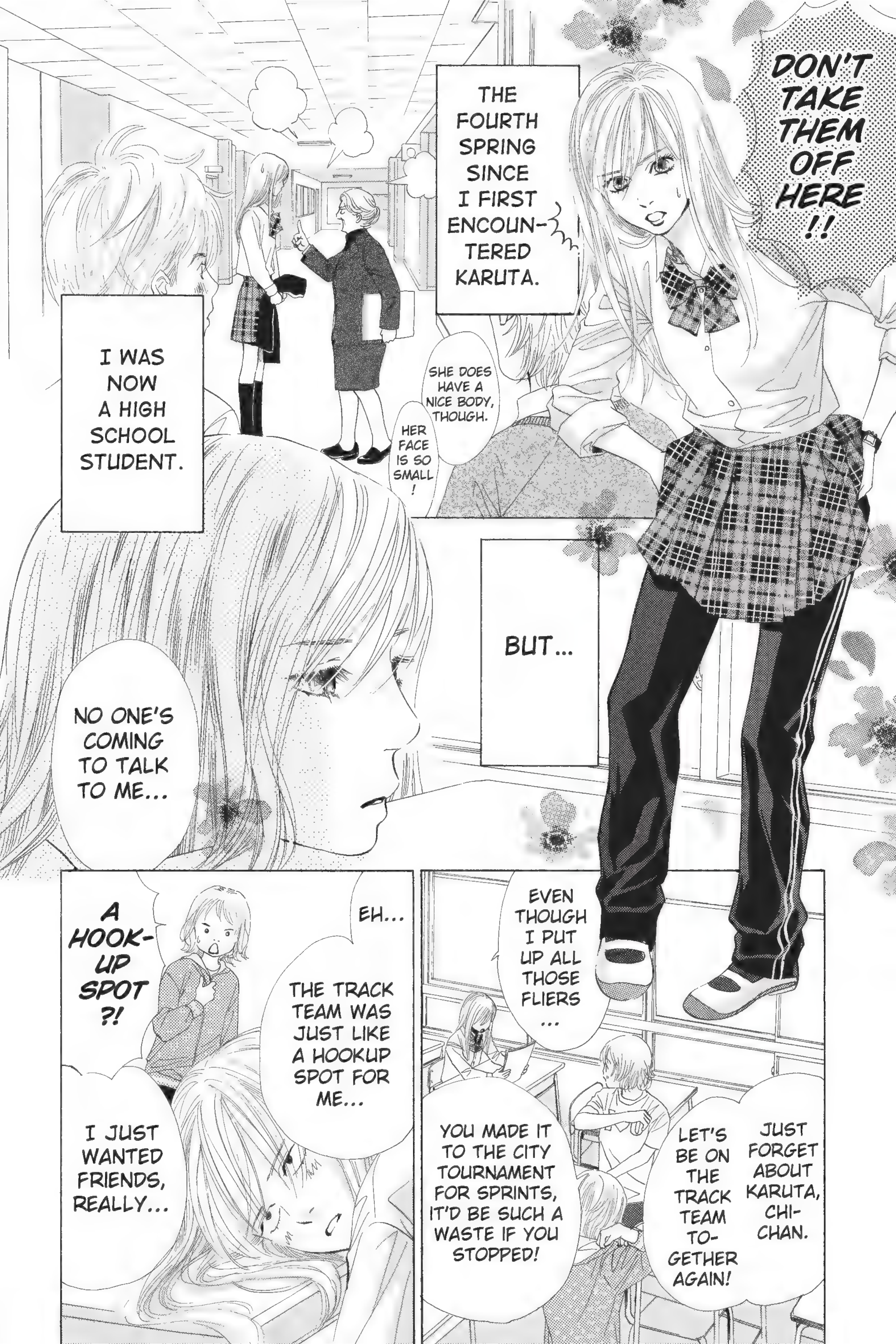
VERSE 7

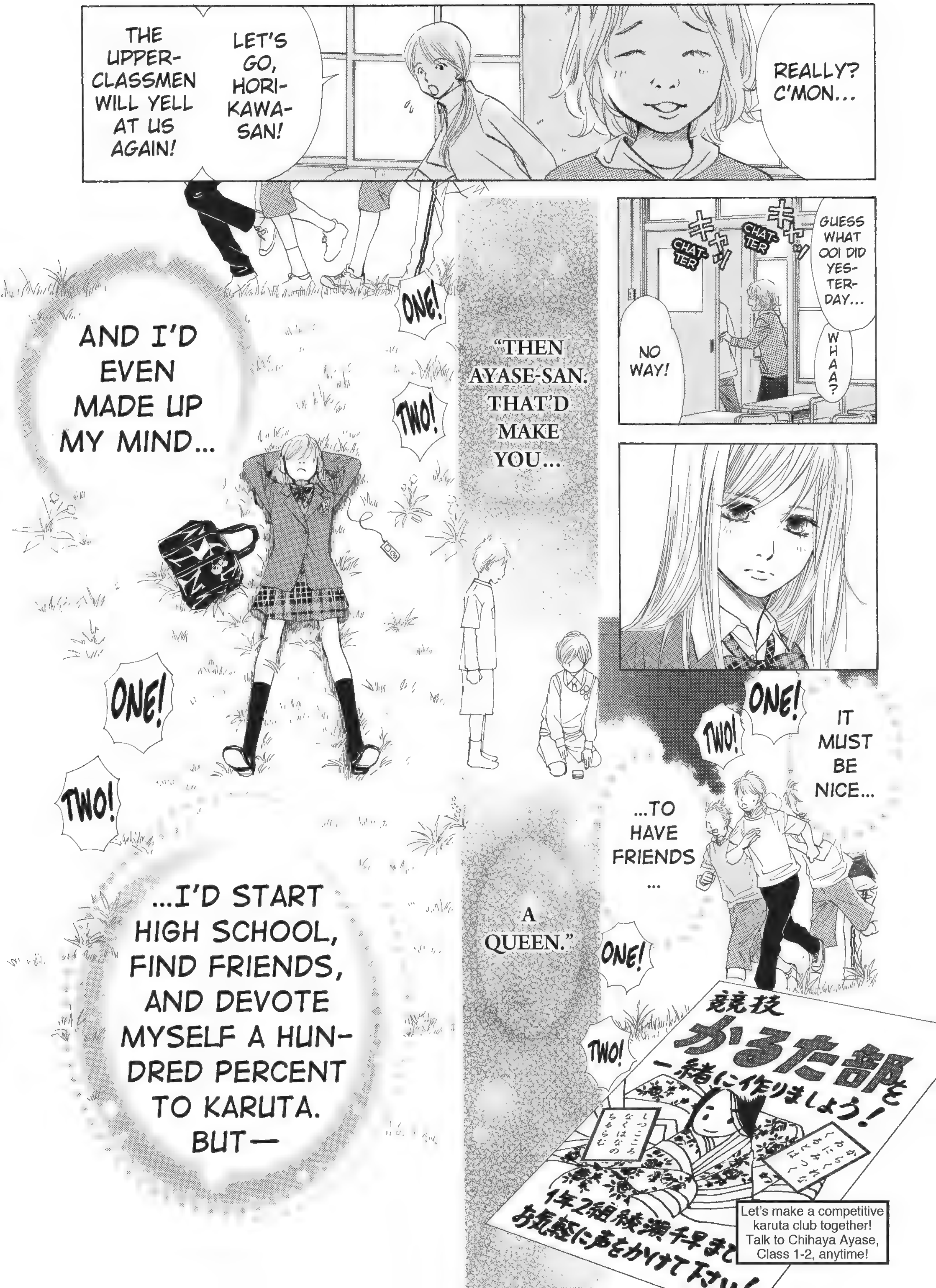
Chihayafuru

Chihayafuru

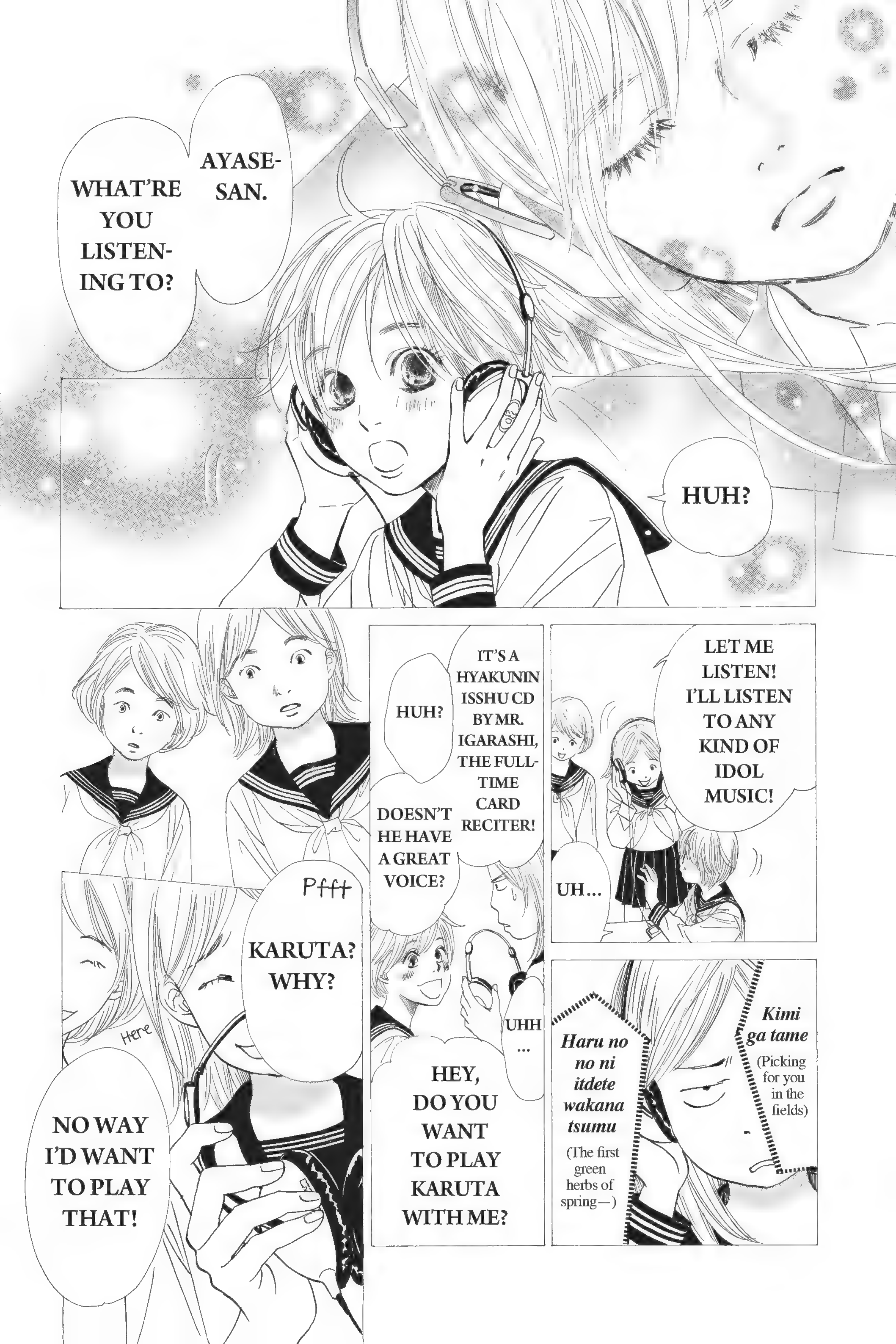

TOKYO MIZUSAWA HIGH SCHOOL
400 STUDENTS PER YEAR, FOR A TOTAL OF 1,200 STUDENTS.
YOU HEAR?
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A REALLY CUTE NEW GIRL COMING IN.
YEAH, THE LITTLE SISTER OF THAT MODEL CHITOSE AYASE, RIGHT?
WHOA! I'M A BIG FAN OF HERS.
SERIOUSLY?! LET'S GO GRAB A LOOK.
WITH THAT MANY STUDENTS...
...I'M SURE I'LL FIND SOMEONE.
BUT THE RUMOR IS...

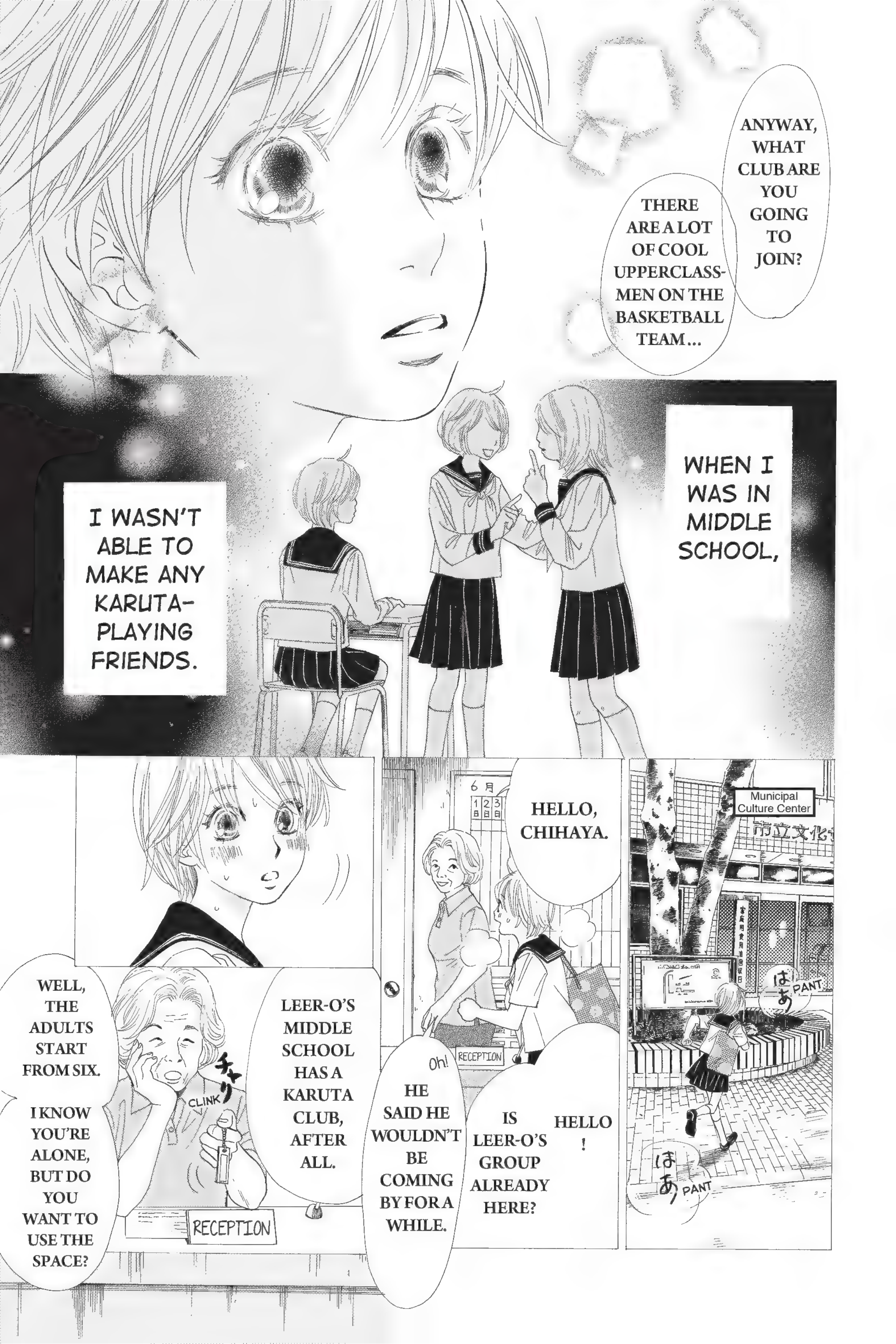

THE RUMOR IS...
...SHE MIGHT BE CUTE,
BUT IT ALL GOES TO WASTE THE MOMENT YOU SEE HER MOVE OR TALK.
プス STAB
プス STAB
プス STAB
プス STAB
プス STAB
THEY SAY HER LOOKS ARE ALL FOR NOTHING...
ガタ RATTLE
ガタ RATTLE
AYA-SE-SAN!
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT AGAIN?
HUH?
SO YOU'RE SAYING I CAN'T WEAR A SKIRT...?
I'M SAYING IF YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR SWEATPANTS, JUST WEAR SWEATPANTS!!
AND THOSE FLIERS!
ONLY PUT UP ONE!
競技かるた部を一緒に作りましょう！
Let's make a competitive karuta club together!
1年2組綾瀬千早まで お気軽に声をかけて下さい！
Talk to Chihaya Ayase, Class 1-2, anytime!

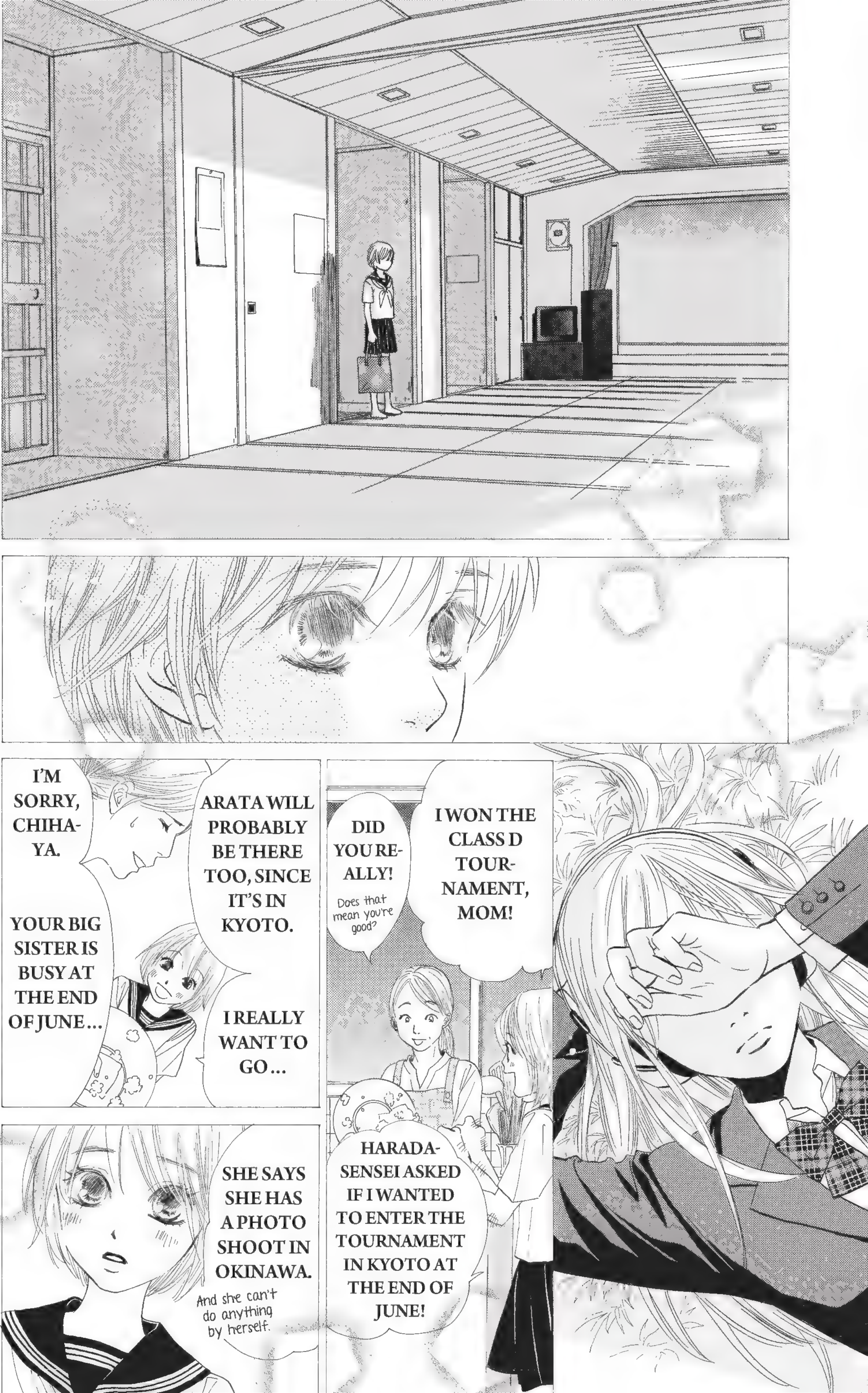

DON'T TAKE THEM OFF HERE!!
THE FOURTH SPRING SINCE I FIRST ENCOUNTERED KARUTA.
SHE DOES HAVE A NICE BODY, THOUGH.
HER FACE IS SO SMALL!
I WAS NOW A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
BUT...
NO ONE'S COMING TO TALK TO ME...
JUST FORGET ABOUT KARUTA, CHI-CHAN.
LET'S BE ON THE TRACK TEAM TOGETHER AGAIN!
EVEN THOUGH I PUT UP ALL THOSE FLIERS...
YOU MADE IT TO THE CITY TOURNAMENT FOR SPRINTS, IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE IF YOU STOPPED!
EH...
THE TRACK TEAM WAS JUST LIKE A HOOKUP SPOT FOR ME...
A HOOK-UP SPOT?!
I JUST WANTED FRIENDS, REALLY...

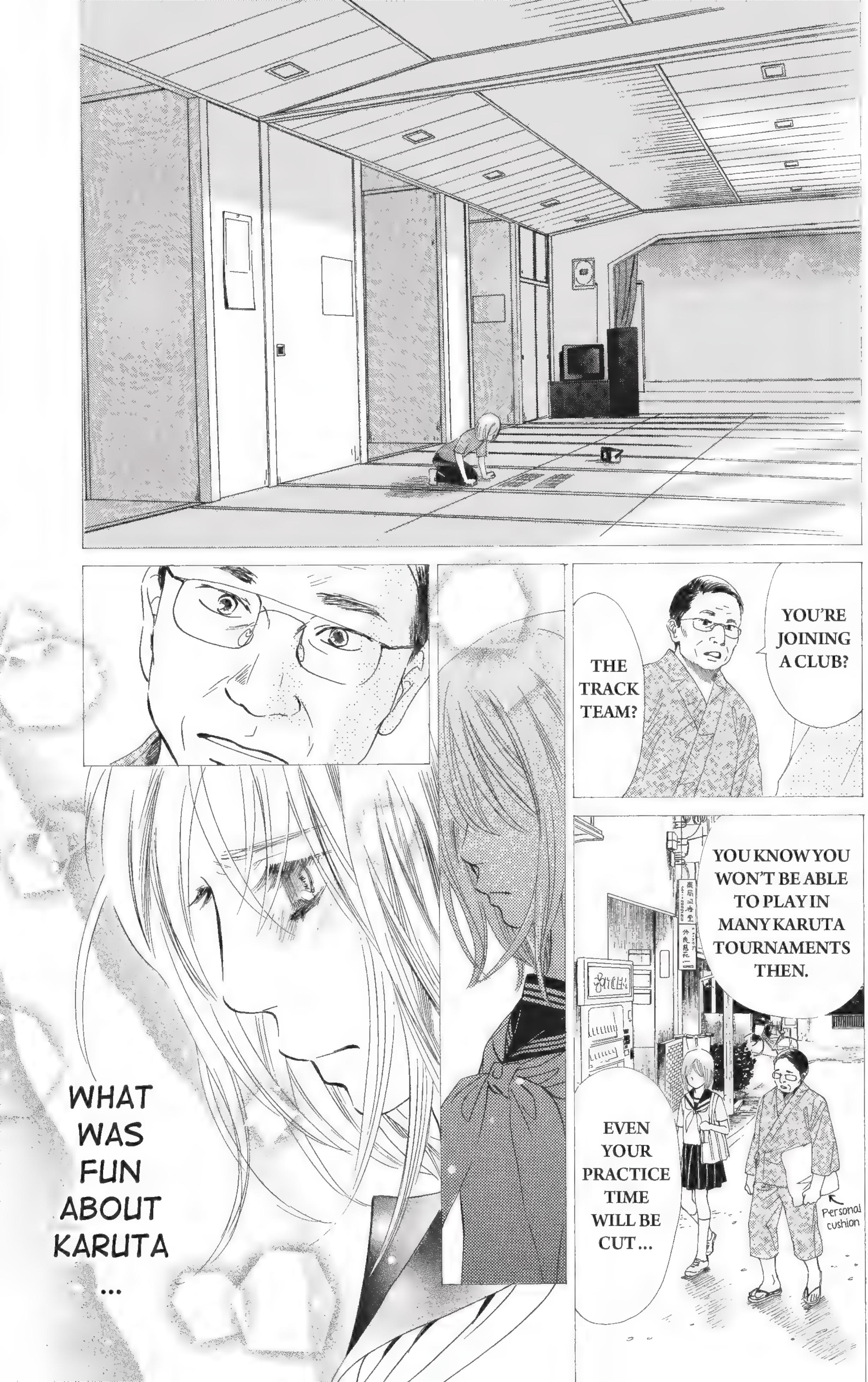

REALLY? C'MON...
LET'S GO, HORIKAWA-SAN!
THE UPPERCLASSMEN WILL YELL AT US AGAIN!
キャッ CHATTER
キャッ CHATTER
GUESS WHAT OOI DID YESTERDAY...
WHAA?
NO WAY!
ONE!
TWO!
"THEN AYASE-SAN. THAT'D MAKE YOU...
AND I'D EVEN MADE UP MY MIND...
ONE!
TWO!
ONE!
TWO!
IT MUST BE NICE...
...TO HAVE FRIENDS...
A QUEEN."
ONE!
TWO!
...I'D START HIGH SCHOOL, FIND FRIENDS, AND DEVOTE MYSELF A HUNDRED PERCENT TO KARUTA. BUT—
競技 かるた部を 一緒に作りましょう！
しづこころなくはなのちるらむ
1年2組綾瀬千早まで お気軽に声をかけて下さい！

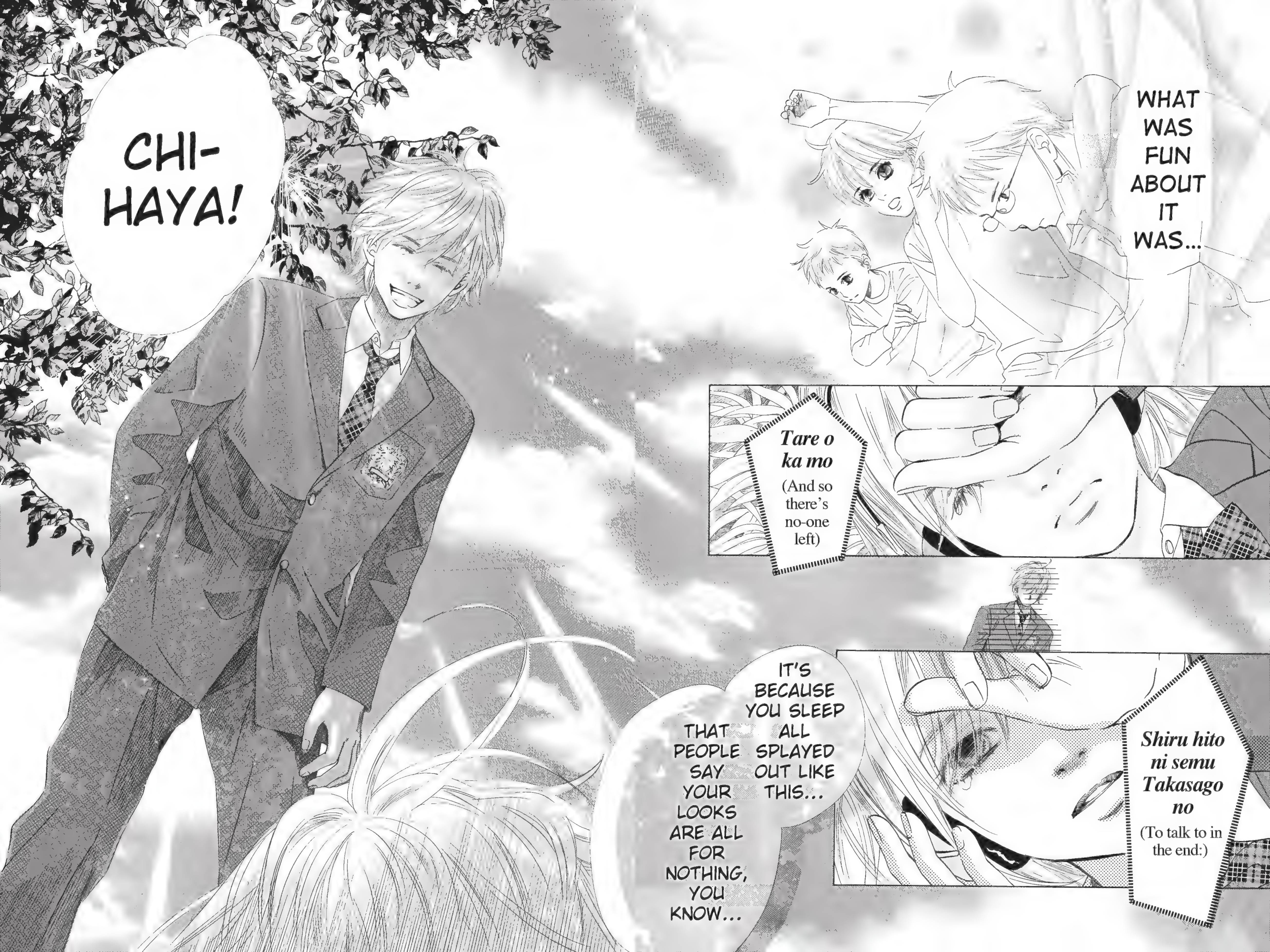
Let's make a competitive karuta club together! Talk to Chihaya Ayase, Class 1-2, anytime!

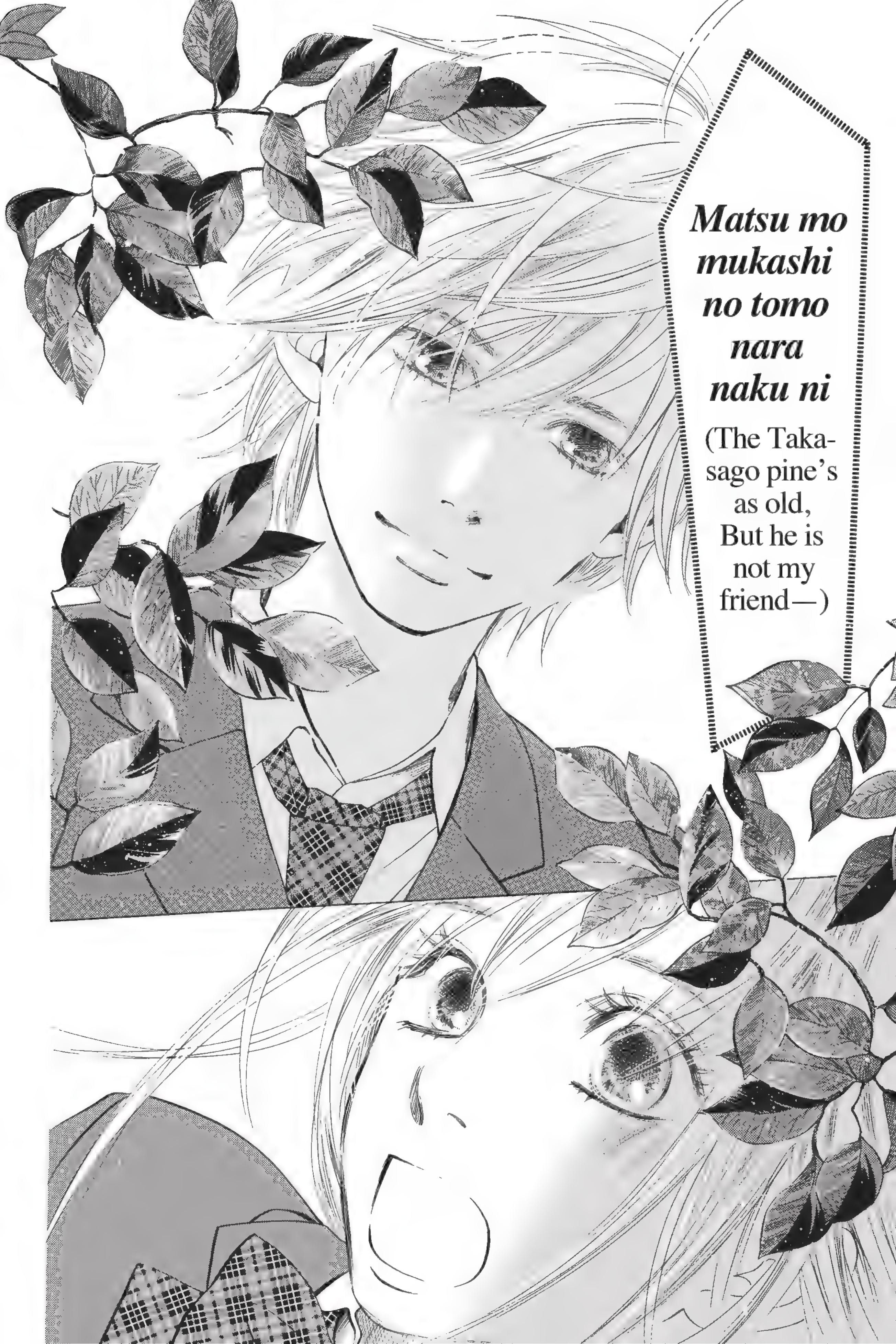

AYASE-SAN.
WHAT'RE YOU LISTENING TO?
HUH?
LET ME LISTEN! I'LL LISTEN TO ANY KIND OF IDOL MUSIC!
UH...
IT'S A HYAKUNIN ISSHU CD BY MR. IGARASHI, THE FULL-TIME CARD RECITER!
HUH?
DOESN'T HE HAVE A GREAT VOICE?
Kimi ga tame (Picking for you in the fields)
Haru no no ni itdete wakana tsumu (The first green herbs of spring—)
UHH...
HEY, DO YOU WANT TO PLAY KARUTA WITH ME?
Pfft
KARUTA? WHY?
Here
NO WAY I'D WANT TO PLAY THAT!

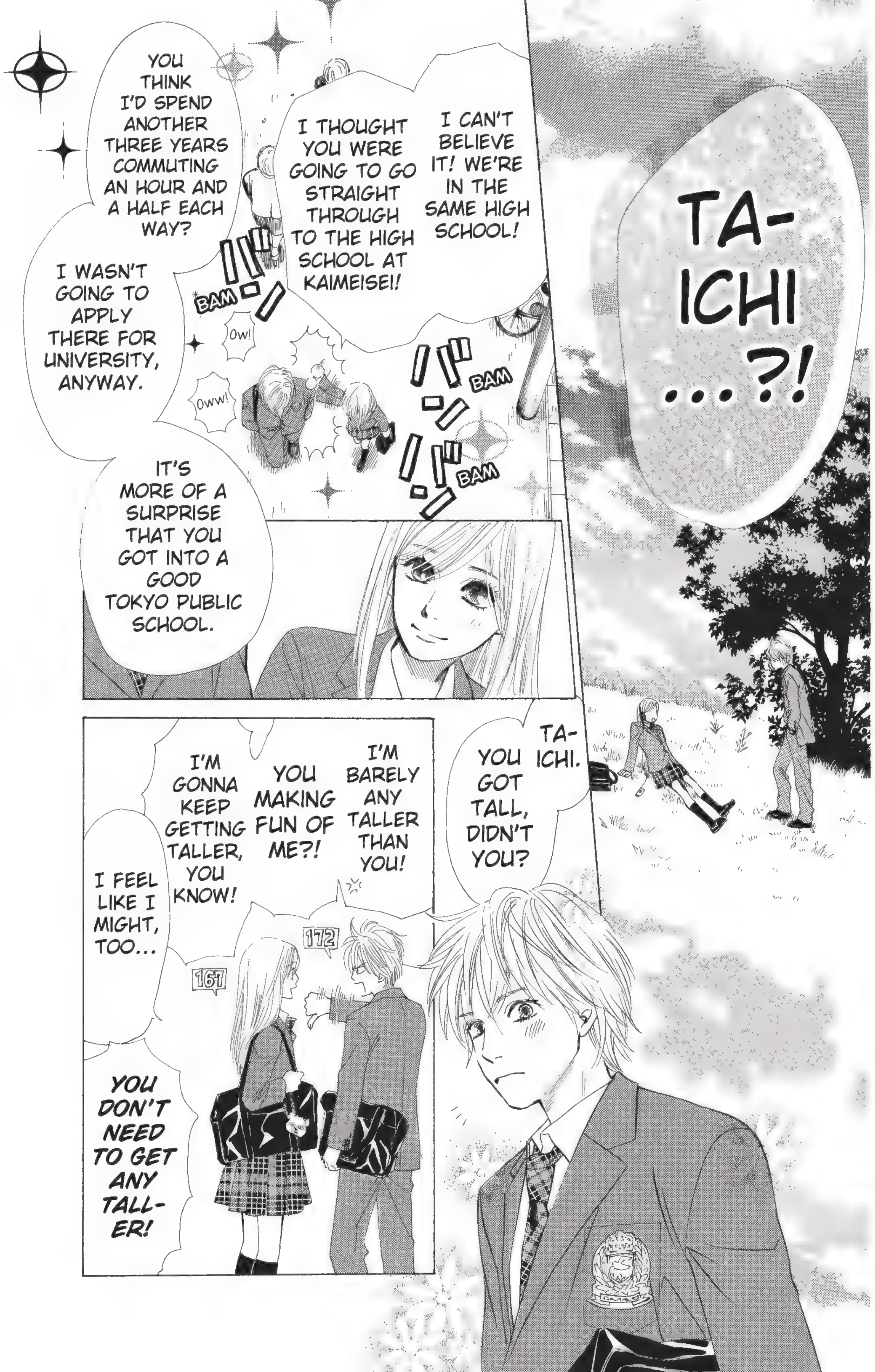

ANYWAY, WHAT CLUB ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN?
THERE ARE A LOT OF COOL UPPERCLASSMEN ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM…
WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE ANY KARUTA-PLAYING FRIENDS.
Municipal Culture Center
市立文化セ
はあ PANT
はあ PANT
6月
HELLO, CHIHAYA.
HELLO!
IS LEER-O'S GROUP ALREADY HERE?
RECEPTION
Oh!
HE SAID HE WOULDN'T BE COMING BY FOR A WHILE.
LEER-O'S MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS A KARUTA CLUB, AFTER ALL.
チャリ CLINK
WELL, THE ADULTS START FROM SIX.
I KNOW YOU'RE ALONE, BUT DO YOU WANT TO USE THE SPACE?
RECEPTION

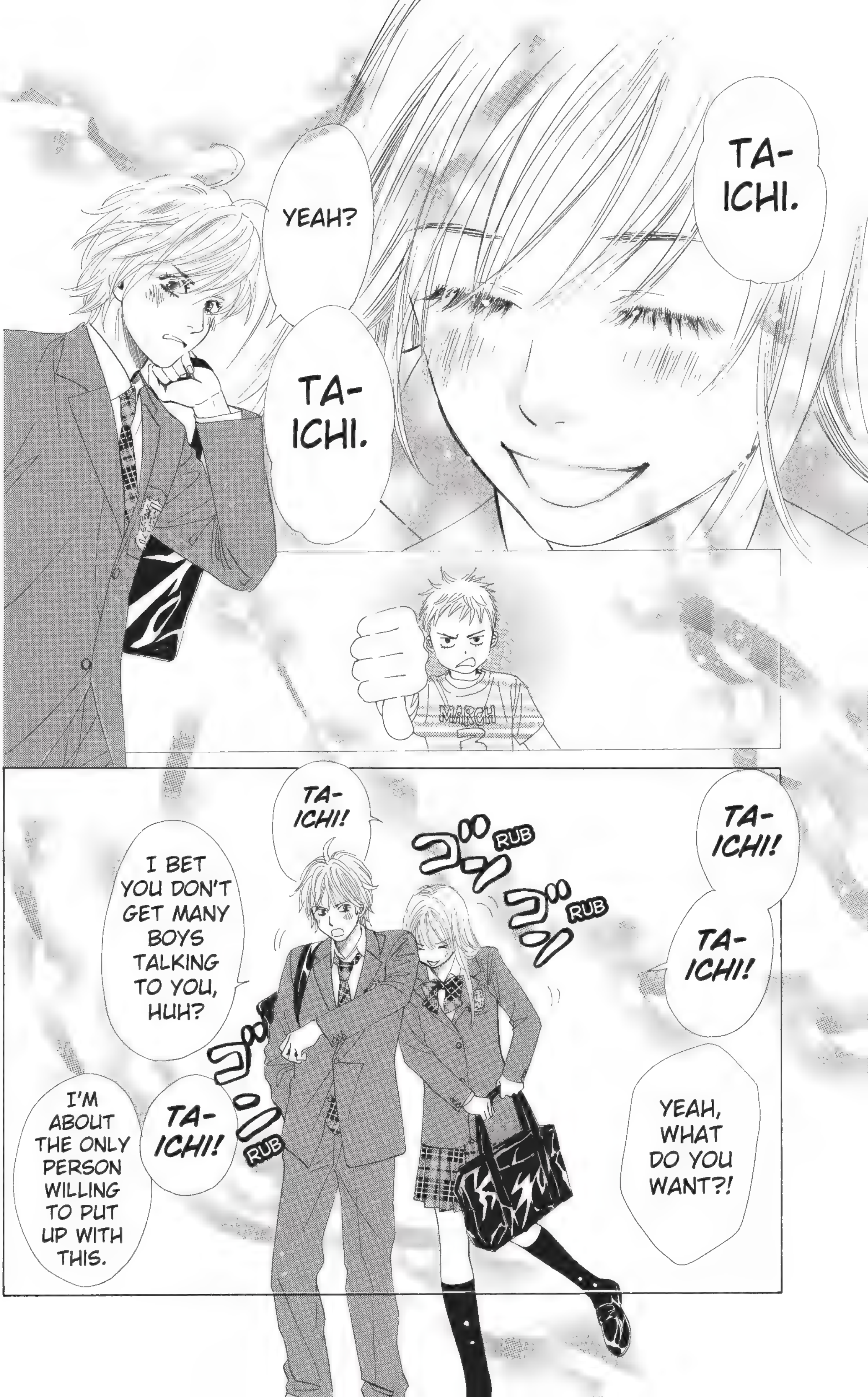

I WON THE CLASS D TOURNAMENT, MOM!
DID YOU REALLY!
Does that mean you're good?
HARADA-SENSEI ASKED IF I WANTED TO ENTER THE TOURNAMENT IN KYOTO AT THE END OF JUNE!
ARATA WILL PROBABLY BE THERE TOO, SINCE IT'S IN KYOTO.
I REALLY WANT TO GO…
I'M SORRY, CHIHAYA.
YOUR BIG SISTER IS BUSY AT THE END OF JUNE…
SHE SAYS SHE HAS A PHOTO SHOOT IN OKINAWA.
And she can't do anything by herself.

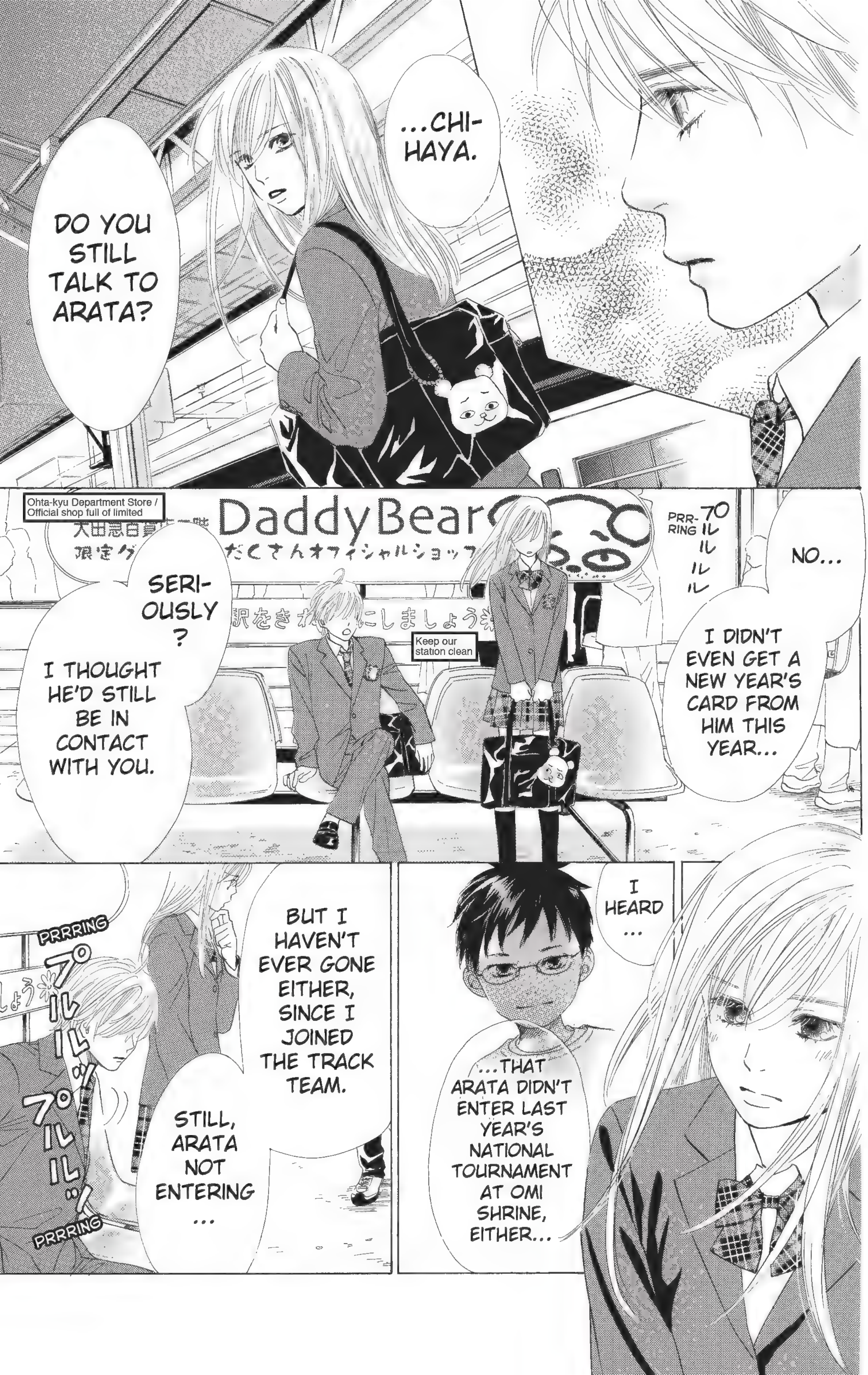

YOU'RE JOINING A CLUB?
THE TRACK TEAM?
YOU KNOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY IN MANY KARUTA TOURNAMENTS THEN.
EVEN YOUR PRACTICE TIME WILL BE CUT...
Personal cushion
WHAT WAS FUN ABOUT KARUTA ...

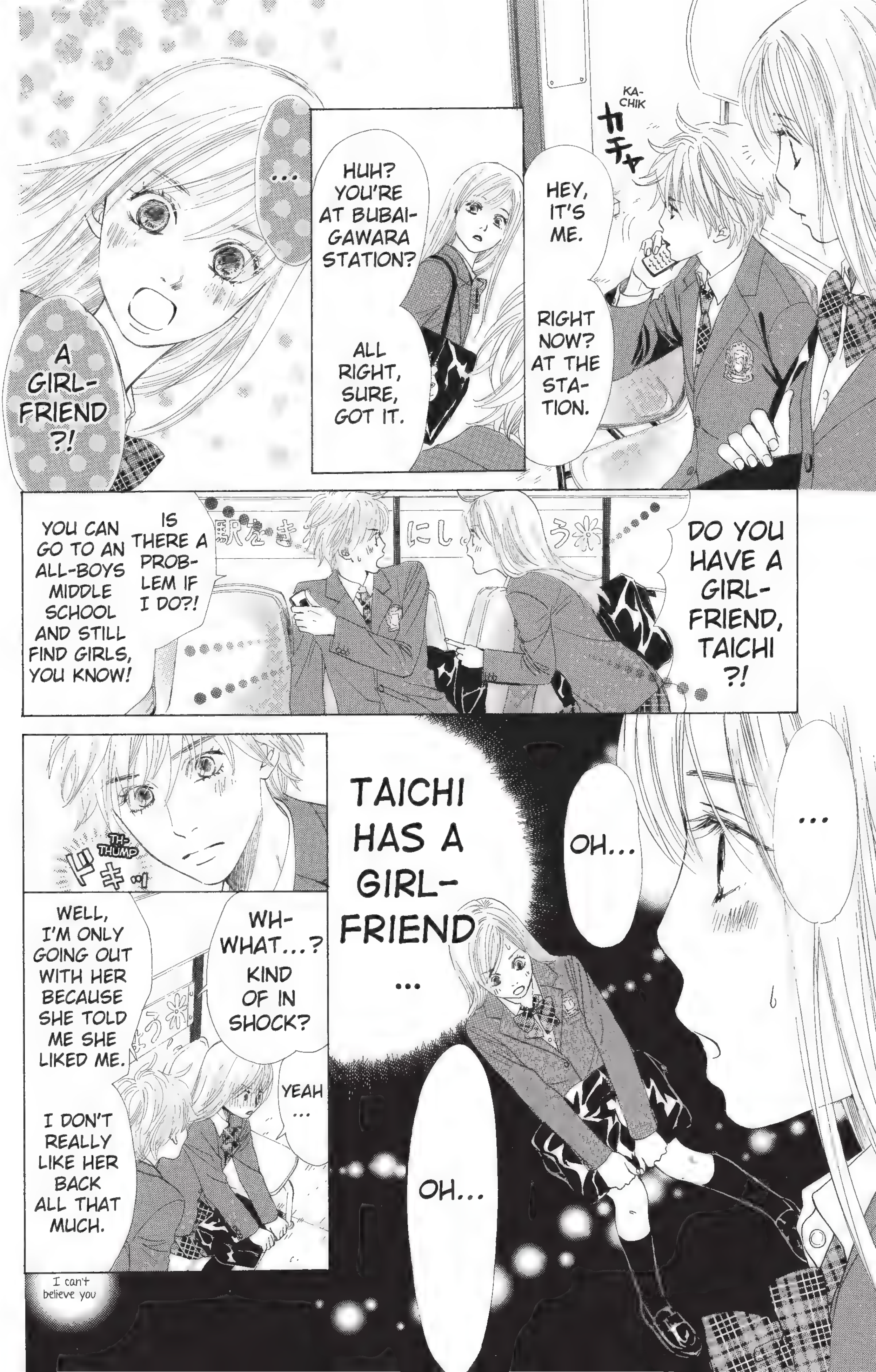

WHAT WAS FUN ABOUT IT WAS...
Tare o ka mo (And so there's no-one left)
Shiru hito ni semu Takasago no (To talk to in the end:)
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SLEEP ALL SPLAYED OUT LIKE THIS... THAT PEOPLE SAY YOUR LOOKS ARE ALL FOR NOTHING, YOU KNOW...
CHI-HAYA!

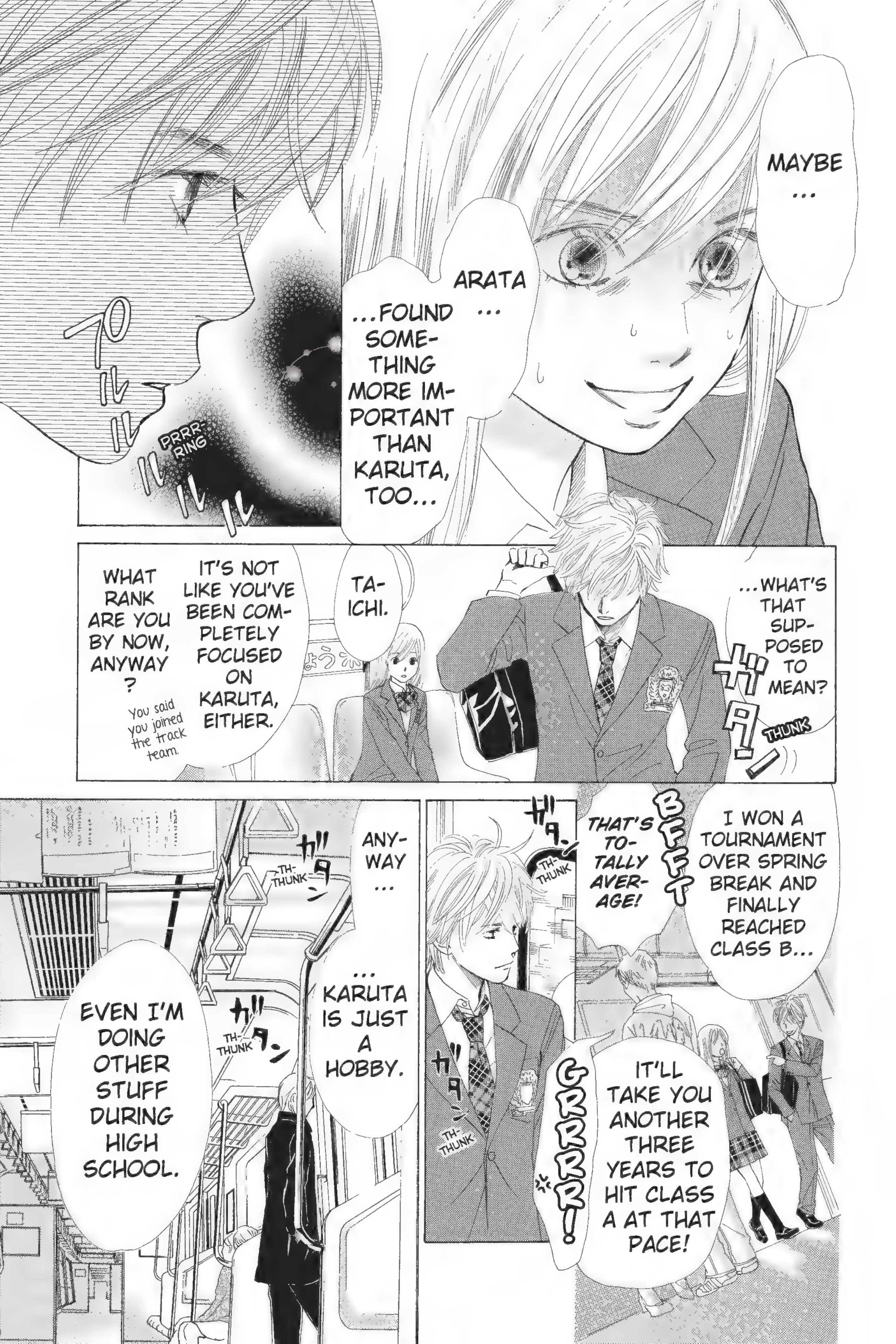

Matsu mo mukashi no tomo nara naku ni
(The Takasago pine's as old, But he is not my friend—)

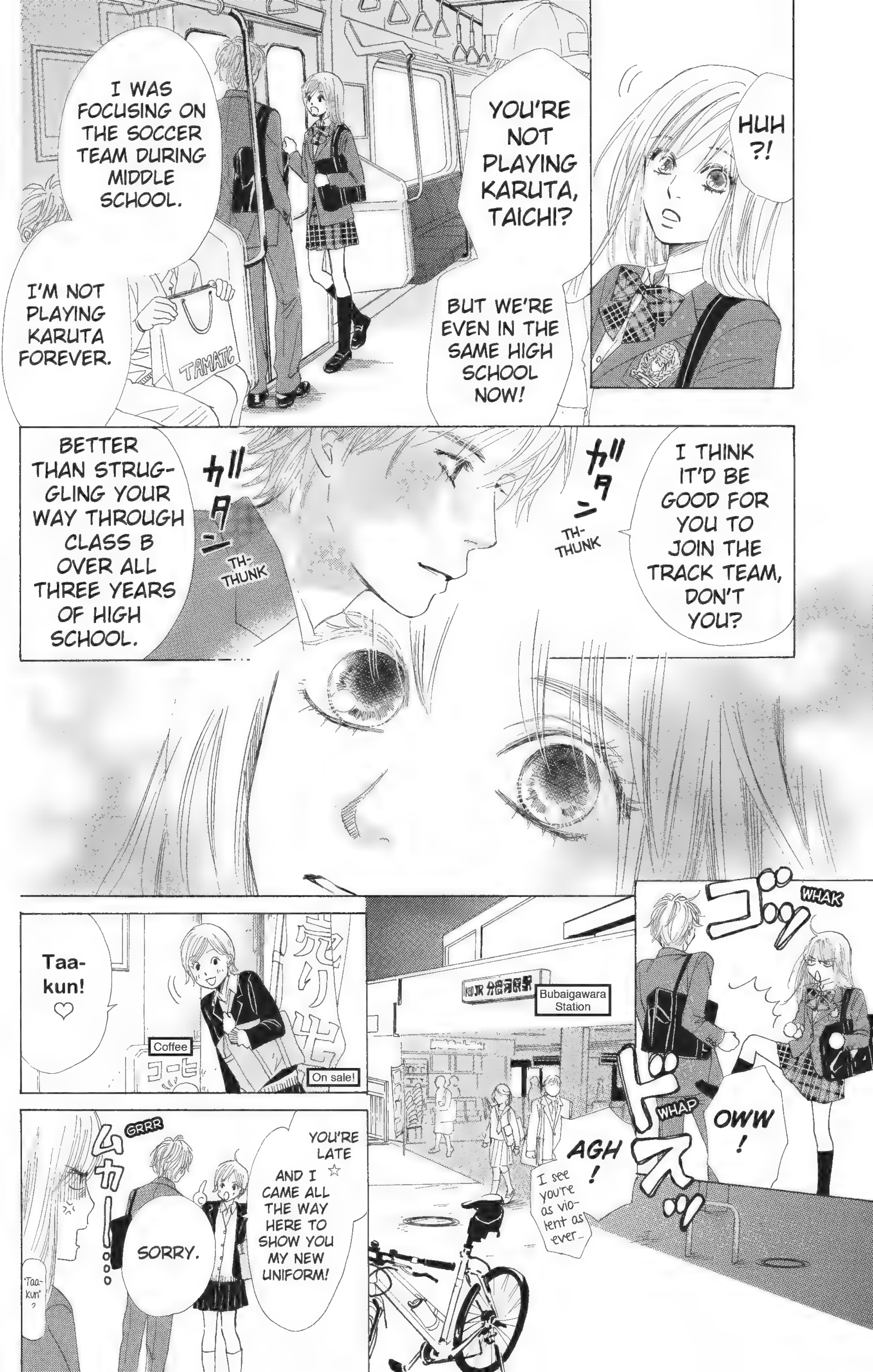

TA-ICHI...?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE'RE IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GO STRAIGHT THROUGH TO THE HIGH SCHOOL AT KAIMEISEI!
YOU THINK I'D SPEND ANOTHER THREE YEARS COMMUTING AN HOUR AND A HALF EACH WAY?
BAM
BAM
BAM
Ow!
Oww!
I WASN'T GOING TO APPLY THERE FOR UNIVERSITY, ANYWAY.
IT'S MORE OF A SURPRISE THAT YOU GOT INTO A GOOD TOKYO PUBLIC SCHOOL.
TA-ICHI.
YOU GOT TALL, DIDN'T YOU?
I'M BARELY ANY TALLER THAN YOU!
YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?!
I'M GONNA KEEP GETTING TALLER, YOU KNOW!
I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT, TOO...
172
167
YOU DON'T NEED TO GET ANY TALLER!

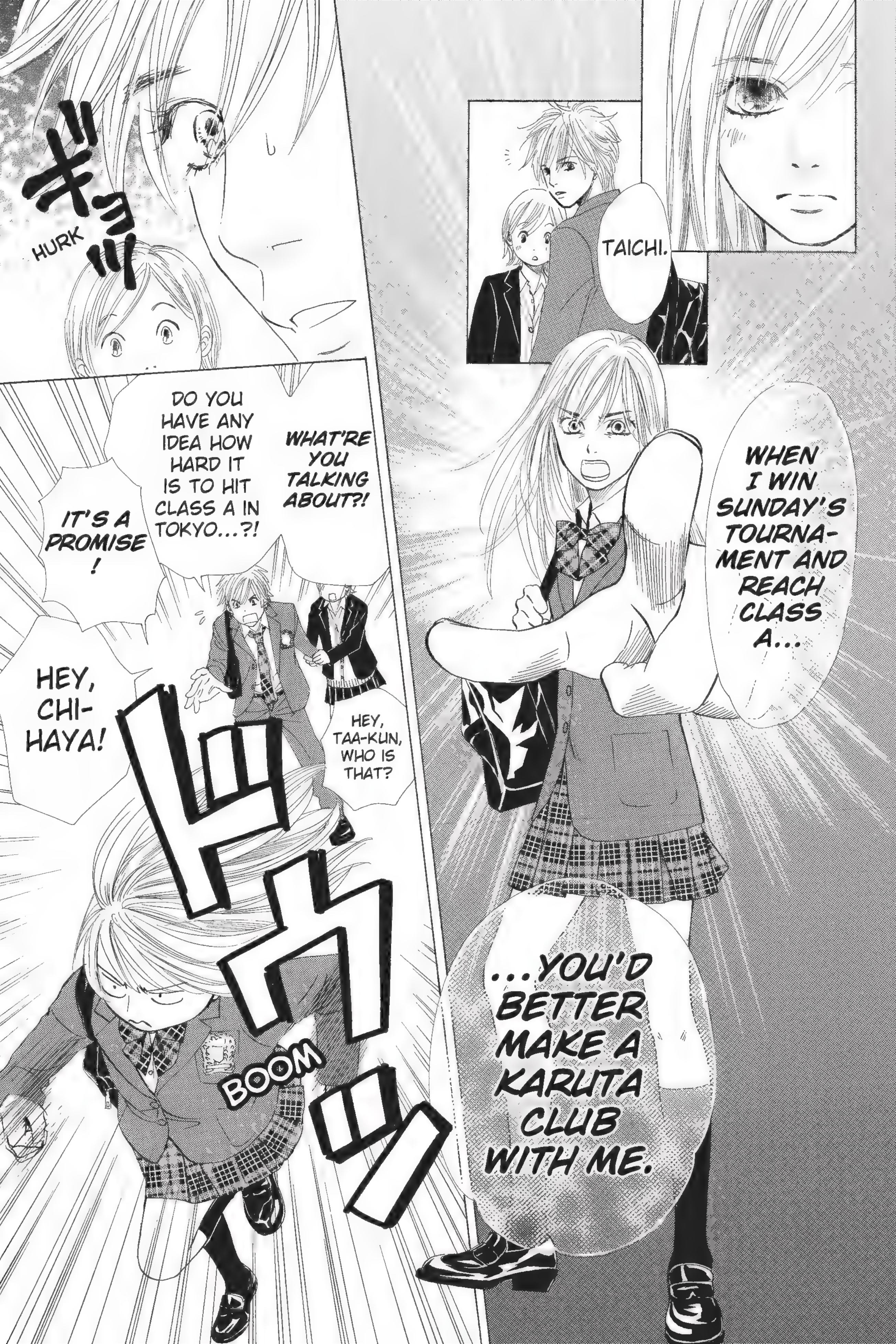

TA-ICHI.
YEAH?
TA-ICHI.
MARCH
TA-ICHI!
TA-ICHI!
YEAH, WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
RUB
RUB
TA-ICHI!
I BET YOU DON'T GET MANY BOYS TALKING TO YOU, HUH?
RUB
TA-ICHI!
I'M ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON WILLING TO PUT UP WITH THIS.

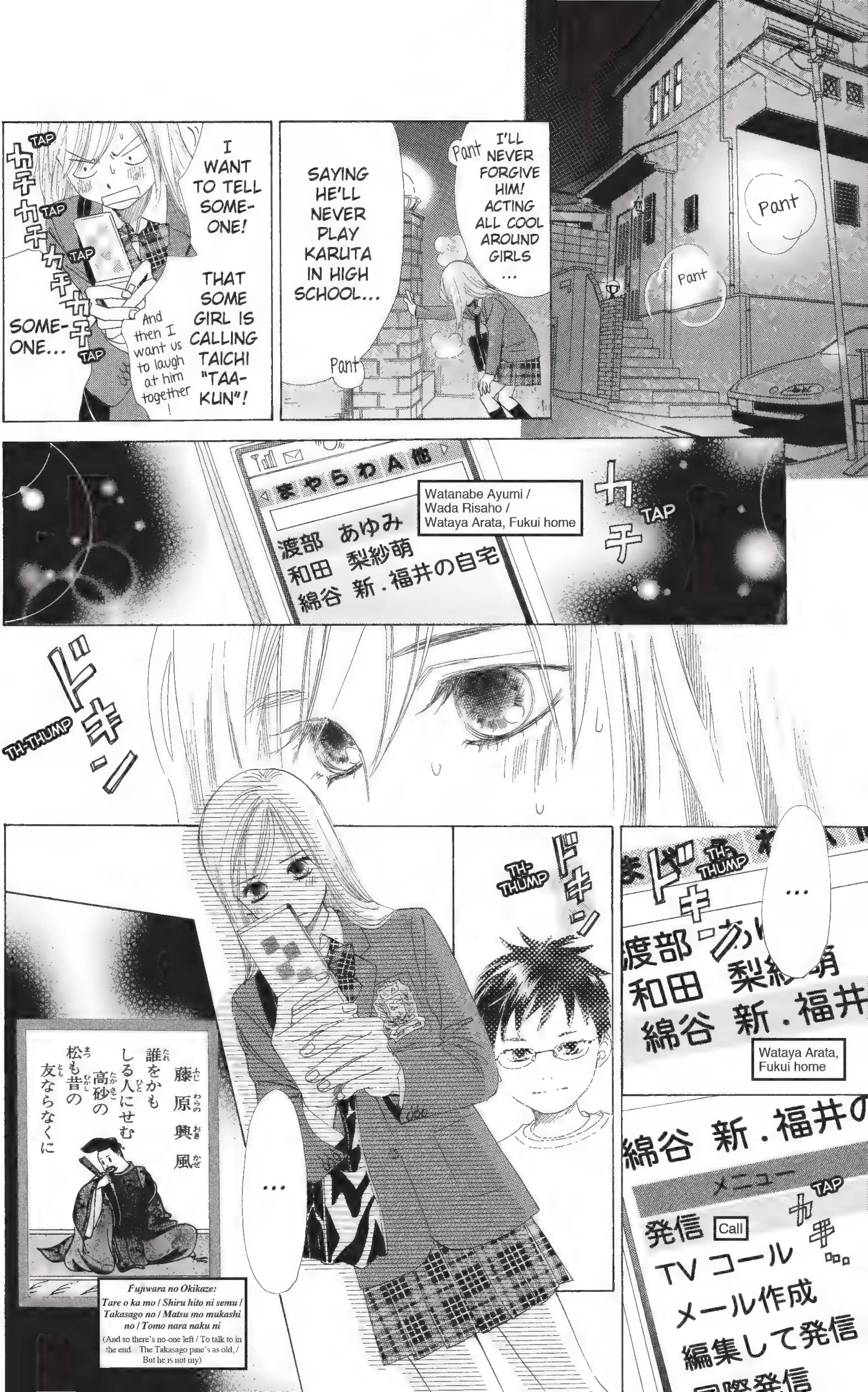

...CHI-HAYA.
DO YOU STILL TALK TO ARATA?
PRR-RING プルルル
NO...
I DIDN'T EVEN GET A NEW YEAR'S CARD FROM HIM THIS YEAR...
DaddyBear
大田急百貨店一階
限定グ　だくさんオフィシャルショップ
Ohta-kyu Department Store / Official shop full of limited
駅をきれ　にしましょう
Keep our station clean
SERIOUSLY?
I THOUGHT HE'D STILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU.
I HEARD...
...THAT ARATA DIDN'T ENTER LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT OMI SHRINE, EITHER...
BUT I HAVEN'T EVER GONE EITHER, SINCE I JOINED THE TRACK TEAM.
STILL, ARATA NOT ENTERING...
PRRRING プルルル
プルルル PRRRING
しょう


KA-CHIK
カチャ
HEY, IT'S ME.
RIGHT NOW? AT THE STATION.
HUH? YOU'RE AT BUBAIGAWARA STATION?
ALL RIGHT, SURE, GOT IT.
...
A GIRLFRIEND?!
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, TAICHI?!
IS THERE A PROBLEM IF I DO?!
YOU CAN GO TO AN ALL-BOYS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND STILL FIND GIRLS, YOU KNOW!
...
OH...
TAICHI HAS A GIRLFRIEND...
OH...
TH-THUMP
ドキッ
WH-WHAT...? KIND OF IN SHOCK?
YEAH...
WELL, I'M ONLY GOING OUT WITH HER BECAUSE SHE TOLD ME SHE LIKED ME.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE HER BACK ALL THAT MUCH.
I can't believe you


MAYBE ...
ARATA ...
...FOUND SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN KARUTA, TOO...
プルルルルル
PRRR-RING
...WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ガタッ
THUNK
TA-ICHI.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE BEEN COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON KARUTA, EITHER.
WHAT RANK ARE YOU BY NOW, ANYWAY?
You said you joined the track team.
I WON A TOURNAMENT OVER SPRING BREAK AND FINALLY REACHED CLASS B...
BFFT
THAT'S TOTALLY AVERAGE!
ガタッ
TH-THUNK
IT'LL TAKE YOU ANOTHER THREE YEARS TO HIT CLASS A AT THAT PACE!
GRRRR!
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ANYWAY ...
ガタン
TH-THUNK
...KARUTA IS JUST A HOBBY.
ガタン
TH-THUNK
EVEN I'M DOING OTHER STUFF DURING HIGH SCHOOL.


HUH ?!
YOU'RE NOT PLAYING KARUTA, TAICHI?
BUT WE'RE EVEN IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL NOW!
I WAS FOCUSING ON THE SOCCER TEAM DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I'M NOT PLAYING KARUTA FOREVER.
TAMATO
ガタン
TH-THUNK
I THINK IT'D BE GOOD FOR YOU TO JOIN THE TRACK TEAM, DON'T YOU?
ガタン
TH-THUNK
BETTER THAN STRUGGLING YOUR WAY THROUGH CLASS B OVER ALL THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL.
ゴッ
WHAK
OWW !
ドスッ
WHAP
AGH !
I see you're as violent as ever...
JR 分倍河原駅
Bubaigawara Station
Taa-kun! ♡
Coffee
コーヒ
売り出
On sale!
YOU'RE LATE ☆
AND I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO SHOW YOU MY NEW UNIFORM!
SORRY.
ムカー
GRRR
"Taa-kun" ?


TAICHI.
WHEN I WIN SUNDAY'S TOURNAMENT AND REACH CLASS A...
...YOU'D BETTER MAKE A KARUTA CLUB WITH ME.
ギョッ
HURK
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS TO HIT CLASS A IN TOKYO...?!
IT'S A PROMISE!
HEY, TAA-KUN, WHO IS THAT?
HEY, CHIHAYA!
ドウッ
BOOM


Pant
Pant
Pant
I'll never forgive him! Acting all cool around girls...
Saying he'll never play karuta in high school...
Pant
I want to tell someone!
That some girl is calling Taichi "Taa-kun"!
And then I want us to laugh at him together!
Someone...
カチカチカチカチ TAP TAP TAP TAP
まやらわA他
渡部　あゆみ
和田　梨紗萌
綿谷　新．福井の自宅
カチ TAP
ドキン TH-THUMP
…
ドキ TH-THUMP
渡部　あゆ
和田　梨紗萌
綿谷　新．福井
綿谷　新．福井の
メニュー
発信 Call
TVコール
メール作成
編集して発信
国際発信
カチ TAP
ドキン TH-THUMP
…
藤原興風
誰をかも
しる人にせむ
高砂の
松も昔の
友ならなくに

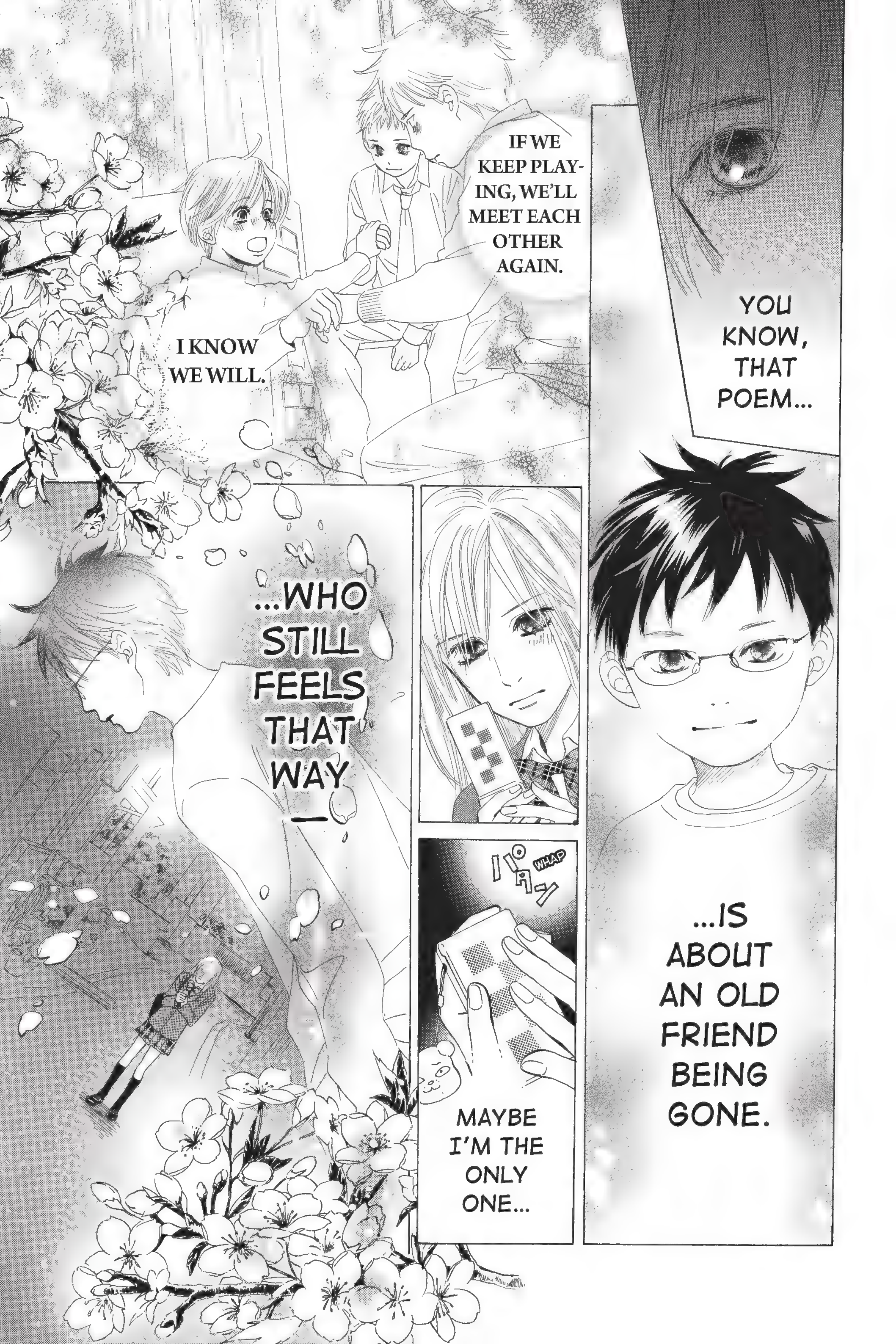
Watanabe Ayumi /
Wada Risaho /
Wataya Arata, Fukui home

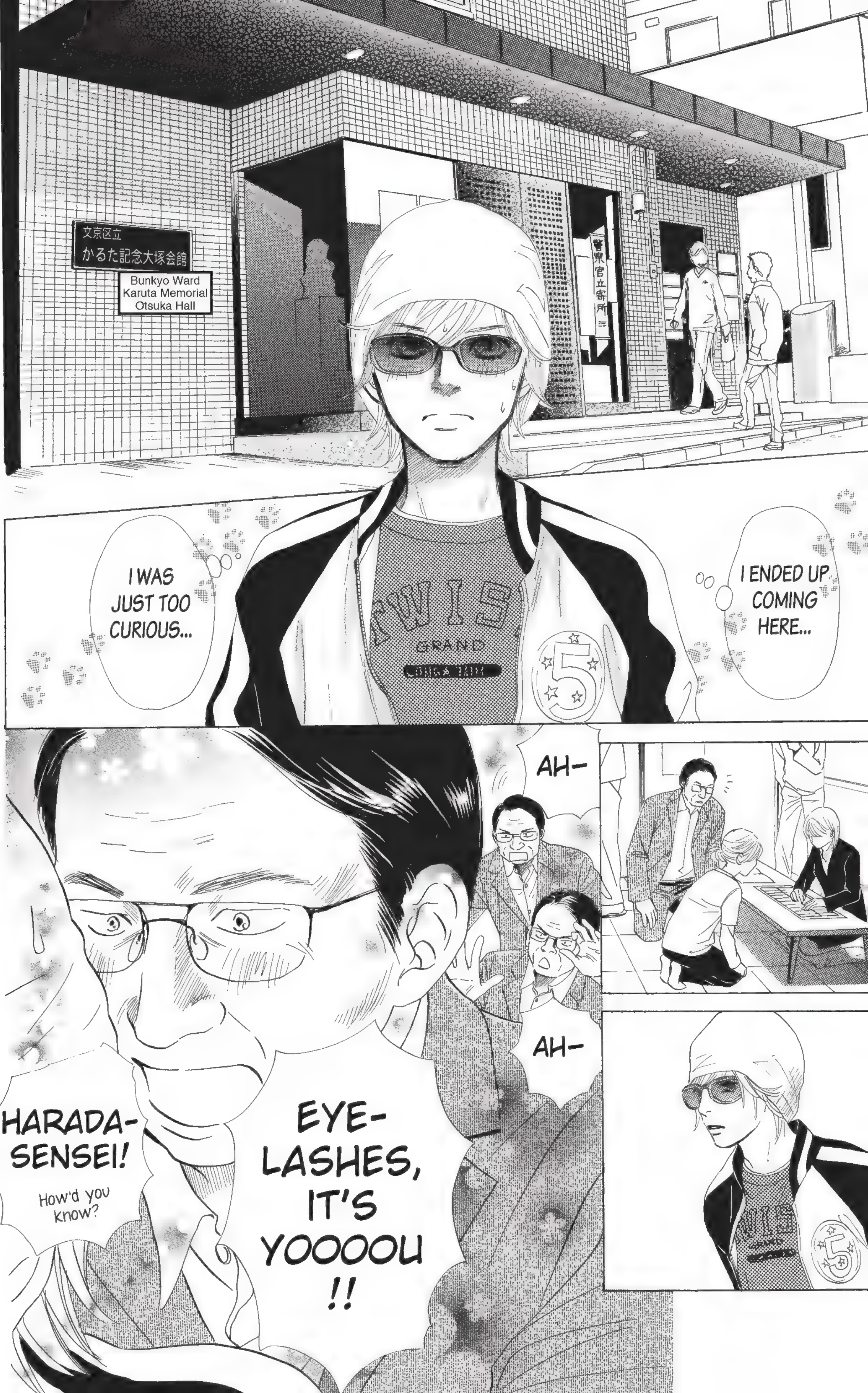
Wataya Arata, Fukui home

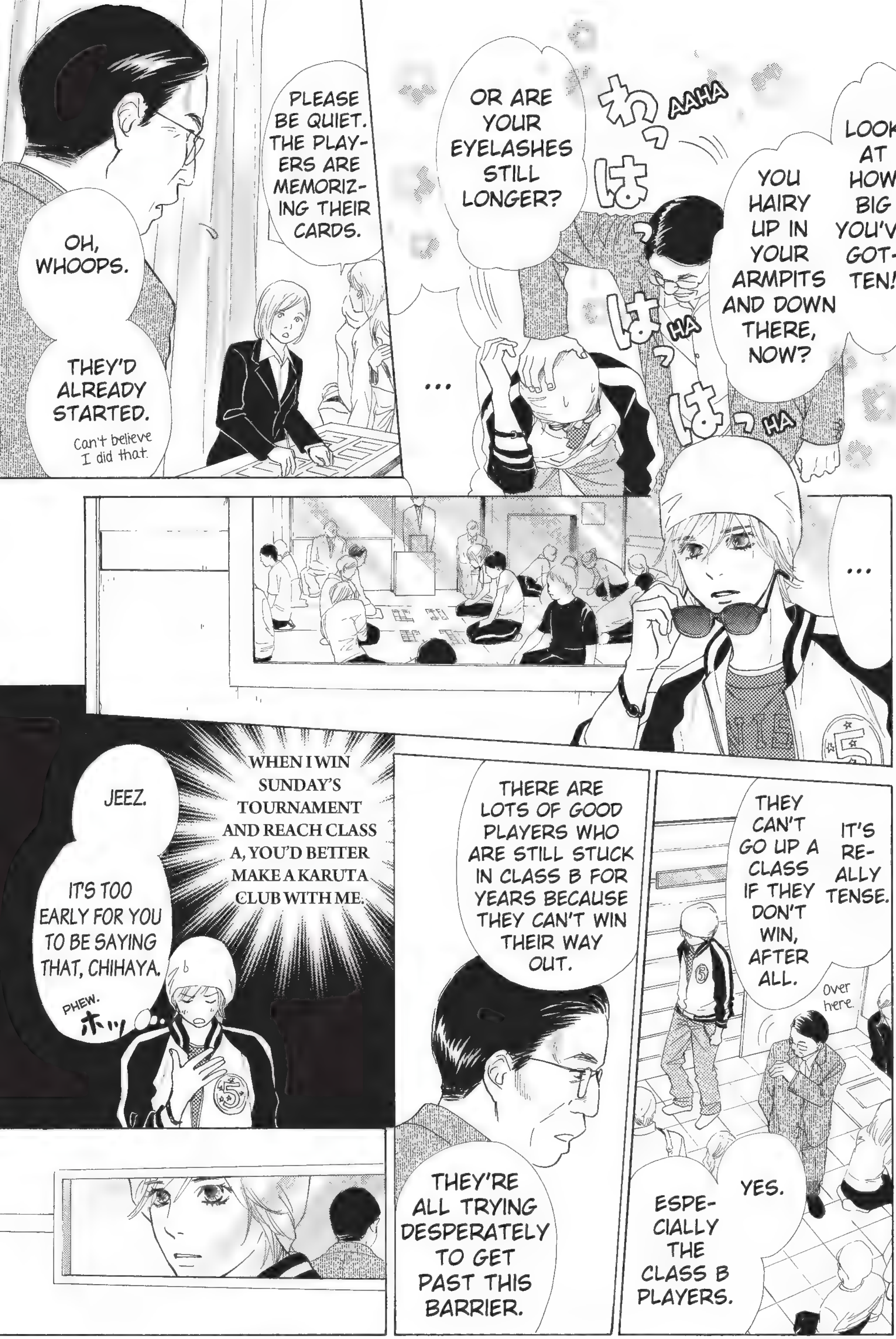
Fujiwara no Okikaze:

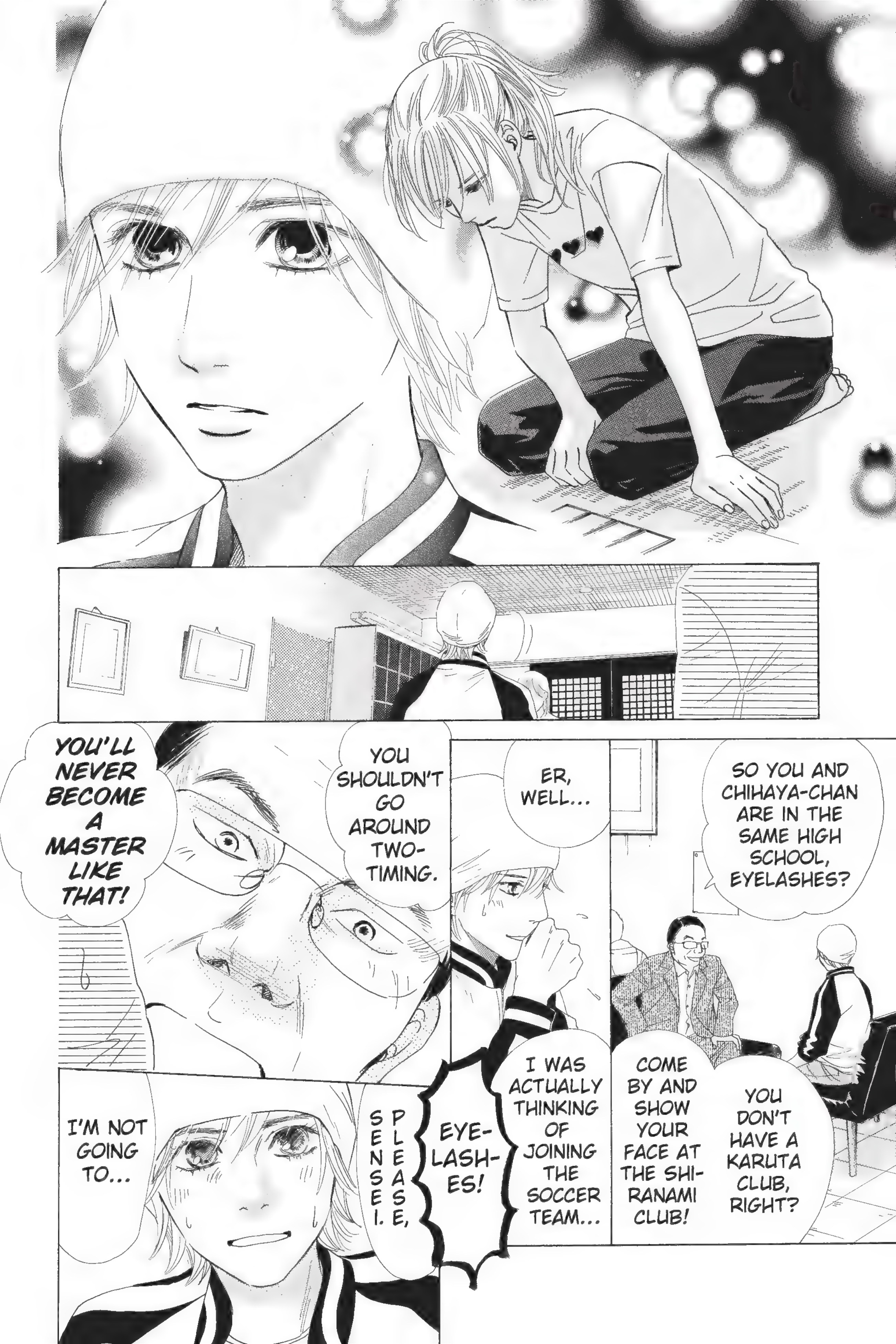
Tare o ka mo / Shiru hito ni semu / Takasago no / Matsu mo mukashi no / Tomo nara naku ni

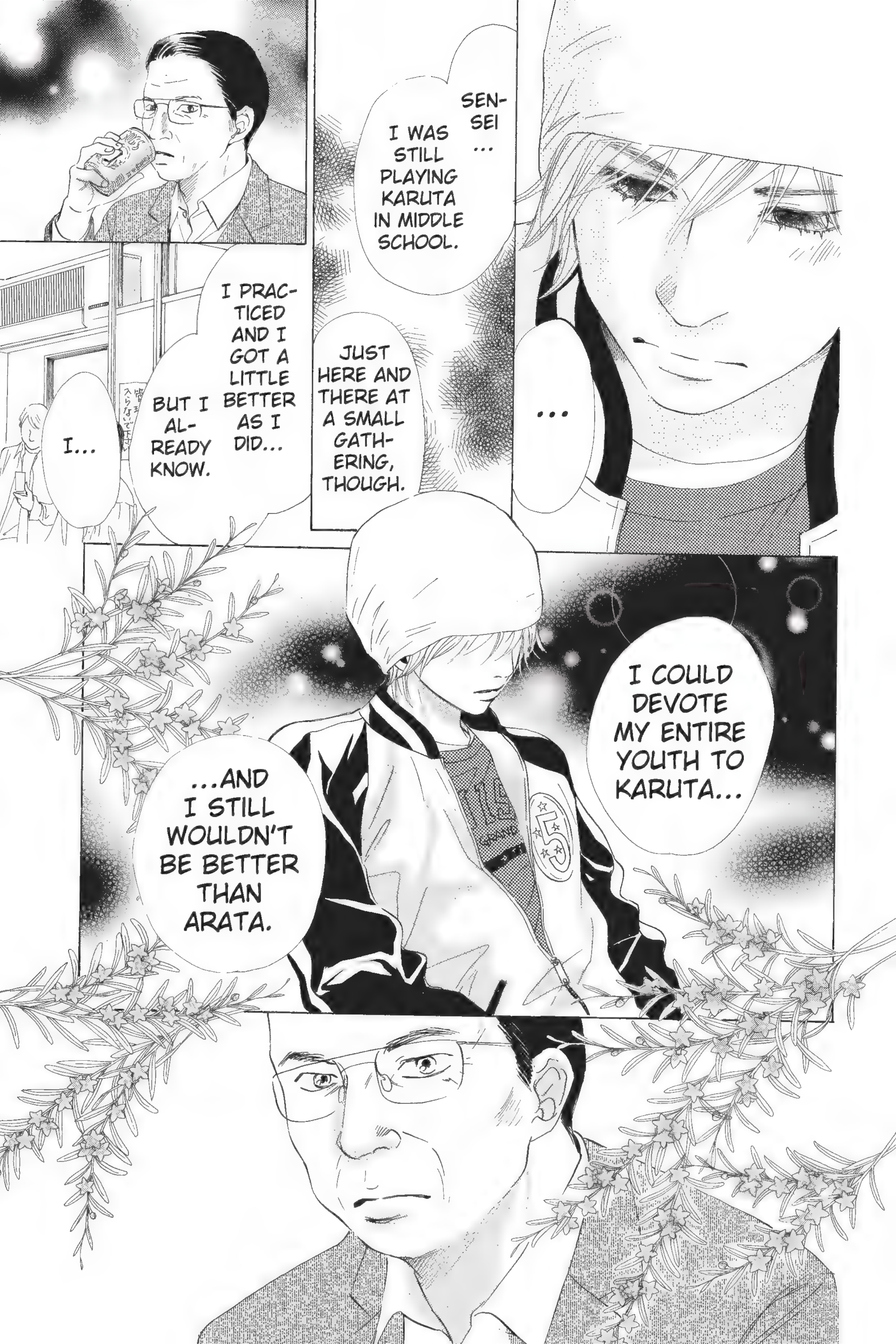
(And so there's no-one left / To talk to in the end. The Takasago pine's as old, / But he is not my)

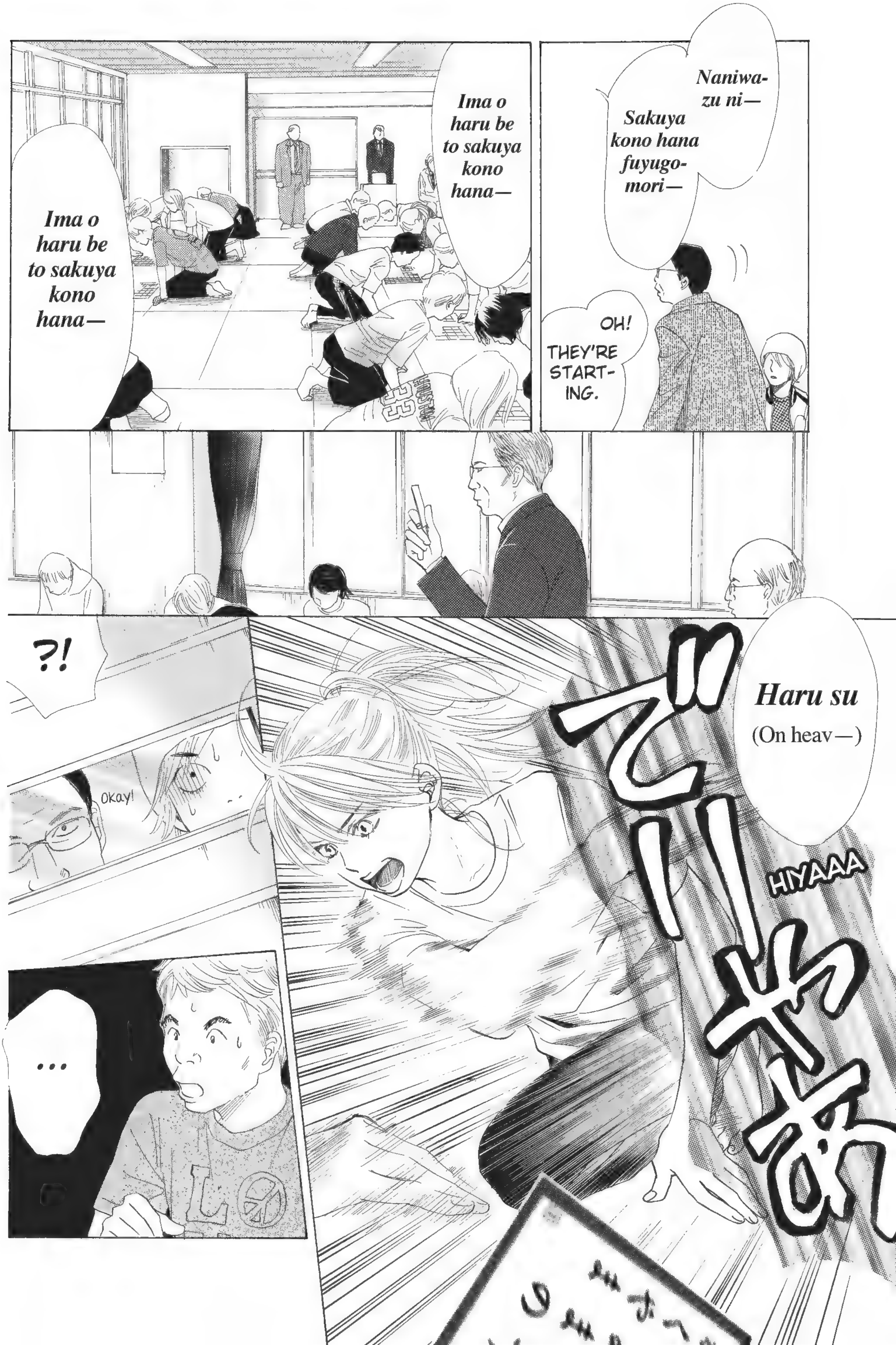

YOU KNOW, THAT POEM...
...IS ABOUT AN OLD FRIEND BEING GONE.
IF WE KEEP PLAYING, WE'LL MEET EACH OTHER AGAIN.
I KNOW WE WILL.
WHAP
MAYBE I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO STILL FEELS THAT WAY —

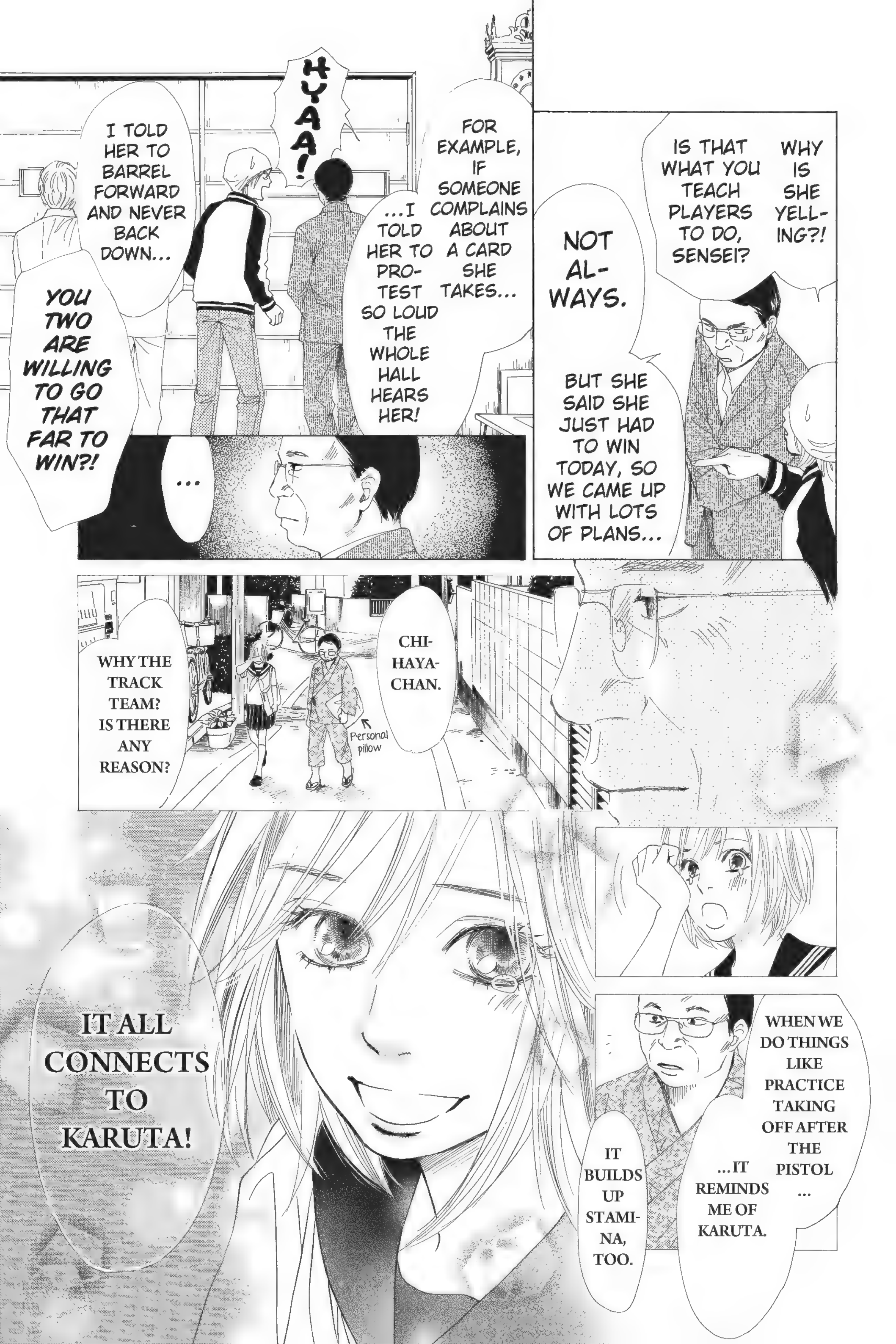

文京区立
かるた記念大塚会館
Bunkyo Ward Karuta Memorial Otsuka Hall
I ENDED UP COMING HERE...
I WAS JUST TOO CURIOUS...
AH-
AH-
EYE-LASHES, IT'S YOOOOU!!
HARADA-SENSEI!
How'd you know?

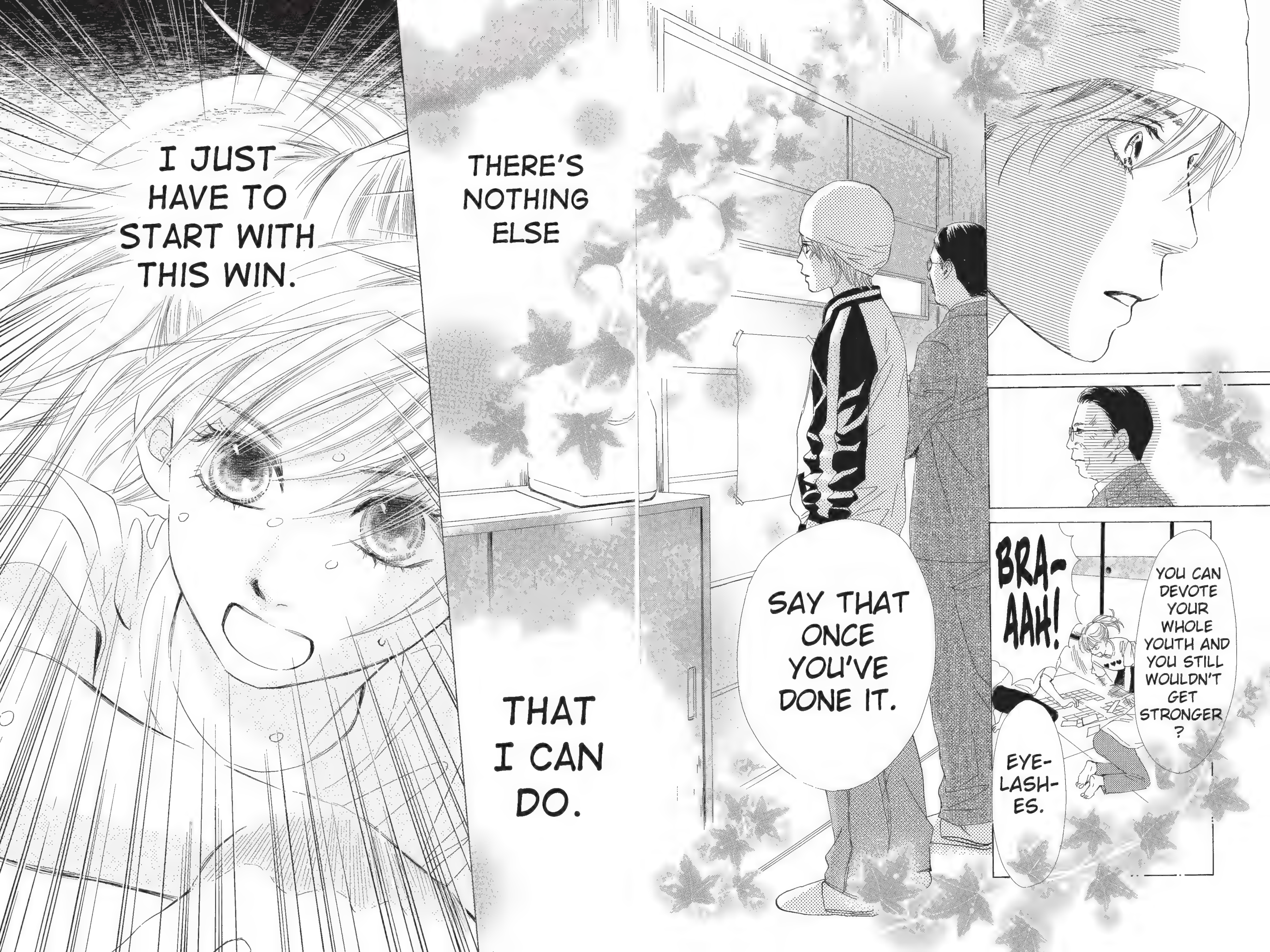

LOOK AT HOW BIG YOU'VE GOTTEN!
YOU HAIRY UP IN YOUR ARMPITS AND DOWN THERE, NOW?
わっ AAHA
はっ HA
はっ HA
OR ARE YOUR EYELASHES STILL LONGER?
...
PLEASE BE QUIET. THE PLAYERS ARE MEMORIZING THEIR CARDS.
OH, WHOOPS.
THEY'D ALREADY STARTED.
Can't believe I did that.
...
IT'S REALLY TENSE.
THEY CAN'T GO UP A CLASS IF THEY DON'T WIN, AFTER ALL.
Over here.
YES.
ESPECIALLY THE CLASS B PLAYERS.
THERE ARE LOTS OF GOOD PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL STUCK IN CLASS B FOR YEARS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T WIN THEIR WAY OUT.
THEY'RE ALL TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET PAST THIS BARRIER.
WHEN I WIN SUNDAY'S TOURNAMENT AND REACH CLASS A, YOU'D BETTER MAKE A KARUTA CLUB WITH ME.
JEEZ.
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE SAYING THAT, CHIHAYA.
PHEW.
ホッ


SO YOU AND CHIHAYA-CHAN ARE IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL, EYELASHES?
YOU DON'T HAVE A KARUTA CLUB, RIGHT?
COME BY AND SHOW YOUR FACE AT THE SHIRANAMI CLUB!
ER, WELL...
I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING OF JOINING THE SOCCER TEAM...
YOU SHOULDN'T GO AROUND TWO-TIMING.
YOU'LL NEVER BECOME A MASTER LIKE THAT!
EYELASHES!
PLEASE, SENSEI.
I'M NOT GOING TO...


...
SENSEI...
I WAS STILL PLAYING KARUTA IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
JUST HERE AND THERE AT A SMALL GATHERING, THOUGH.
I PRACTICED AND I GOT A LITTLE BETTER AS I DID...
BUT I ALREADY KNOW.
I...
I COULD DEVOTE MY ENTIRE YOUTH TO KARUTA...
...AND I STILL WOULDN'T BE BETTER THAN ARATA.


Naniwazu ni—
Sakuya kono hana fuyugomori—
OH! THEY'RE STARTING.
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana—
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana—
Haru su (On heav—)
HIYAAA
?!
Okay!
...


WHY IS SHE YELLING?!
IS THAT WHAT YOU TEACH PLAYERS TO DO, SENSEI?
NOT ALWAYS.
BUT SHE SAID SHE JUST HAD TO WIN TODAY, SO WE CAME UP WITH LOTS OF PLANS...
HYAAA!
FOR EXAMPLE, IF SOMEONE COMPLAINS ABOUT A CARD SHE TAKES...
...I TOLD HER TO PROTEST SO LOUD THE WHOLE HALL HEARS HER!
I TOLD HER TO BARREL FORWARD AND NEVER BACK DOWN...
YOU TWO ARE WILLING TO GO THAT FAR TO WIN?!
...
CHIHAYA-CHAN.
WHY THE TRACK TEAM? IS THERE ANY REASON?
Personal pillow
WHEN WE DO THINGS LIKE PRACTICE TAKING OFF AFTER THE PISTOL...
...IT REMINDS ME OF KARUTA.
IT BUILDS UP STAMINA, TOO.
IT ALL CONNECTS TO KARUTA!

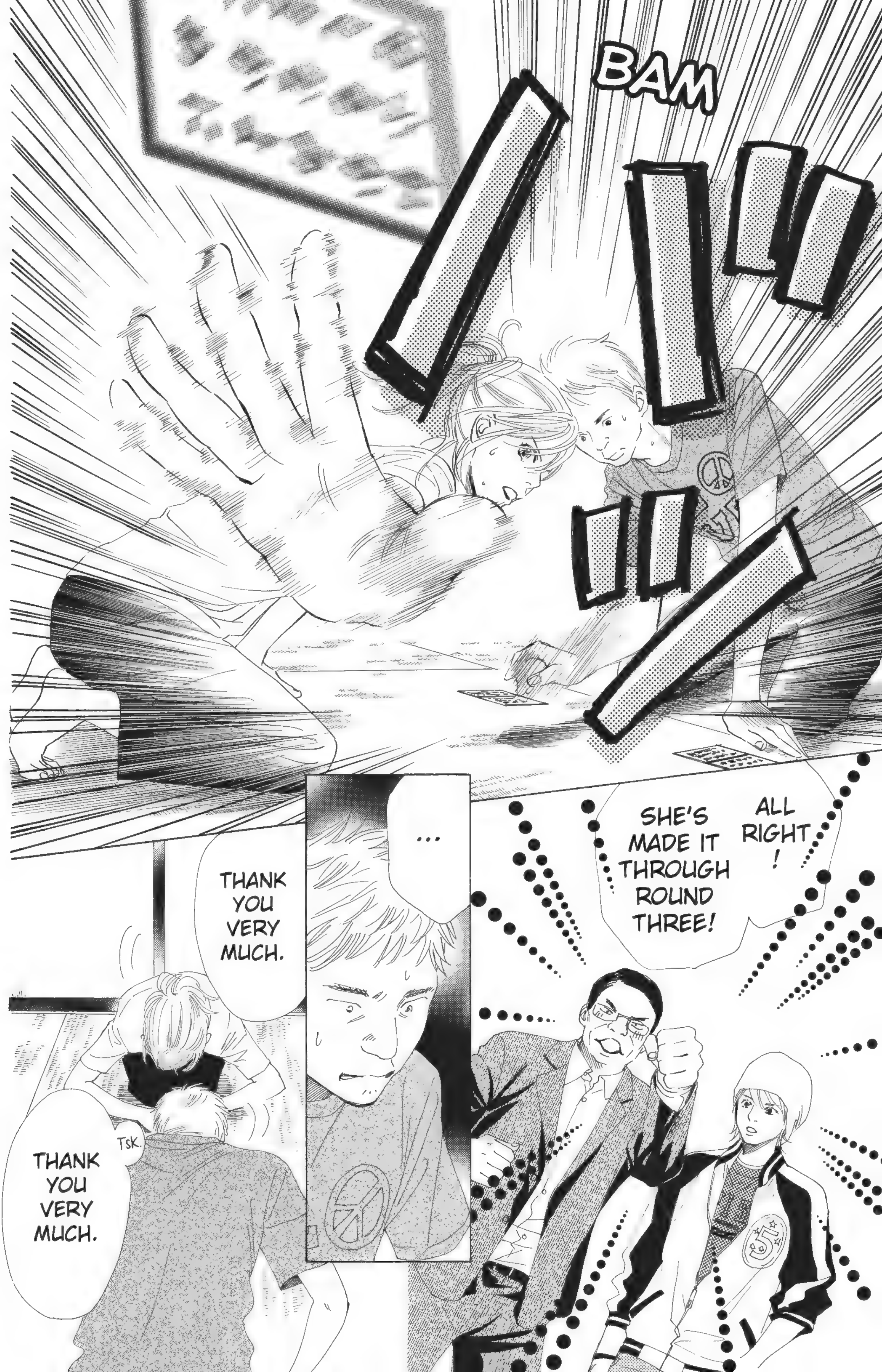

YOU CAN DEVOTE YOUR WHOLE YOUTH AND YOU STILL WOULDN'T GET STRONGER?
BRA-AAH!
EYE-LASHES.
SAY THAT ONCE YOU'VE DONE IT.
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE
THAT I CAN DO.
I JUST HAVE TO START WITH THIS WIN.

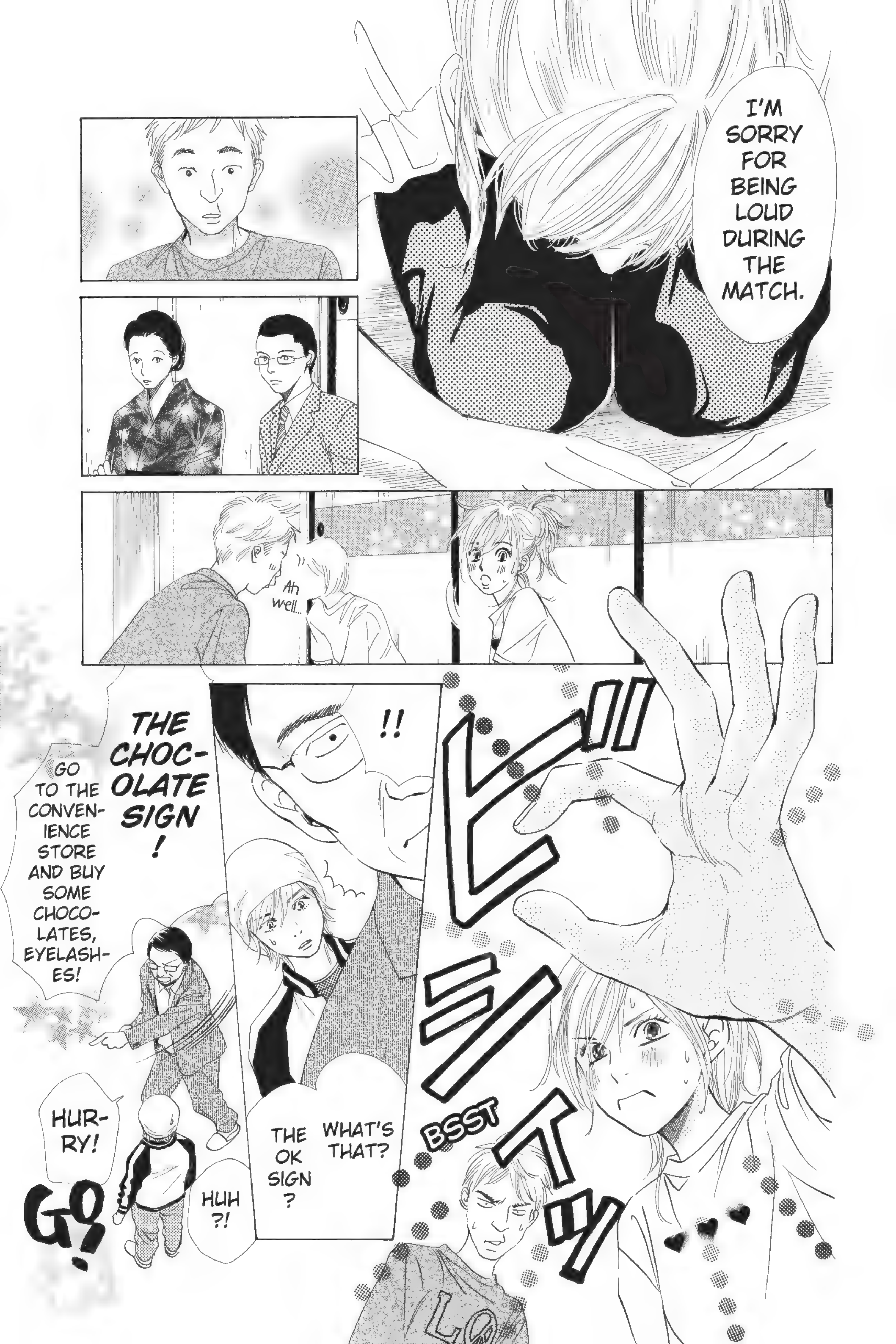
Chihayafuru

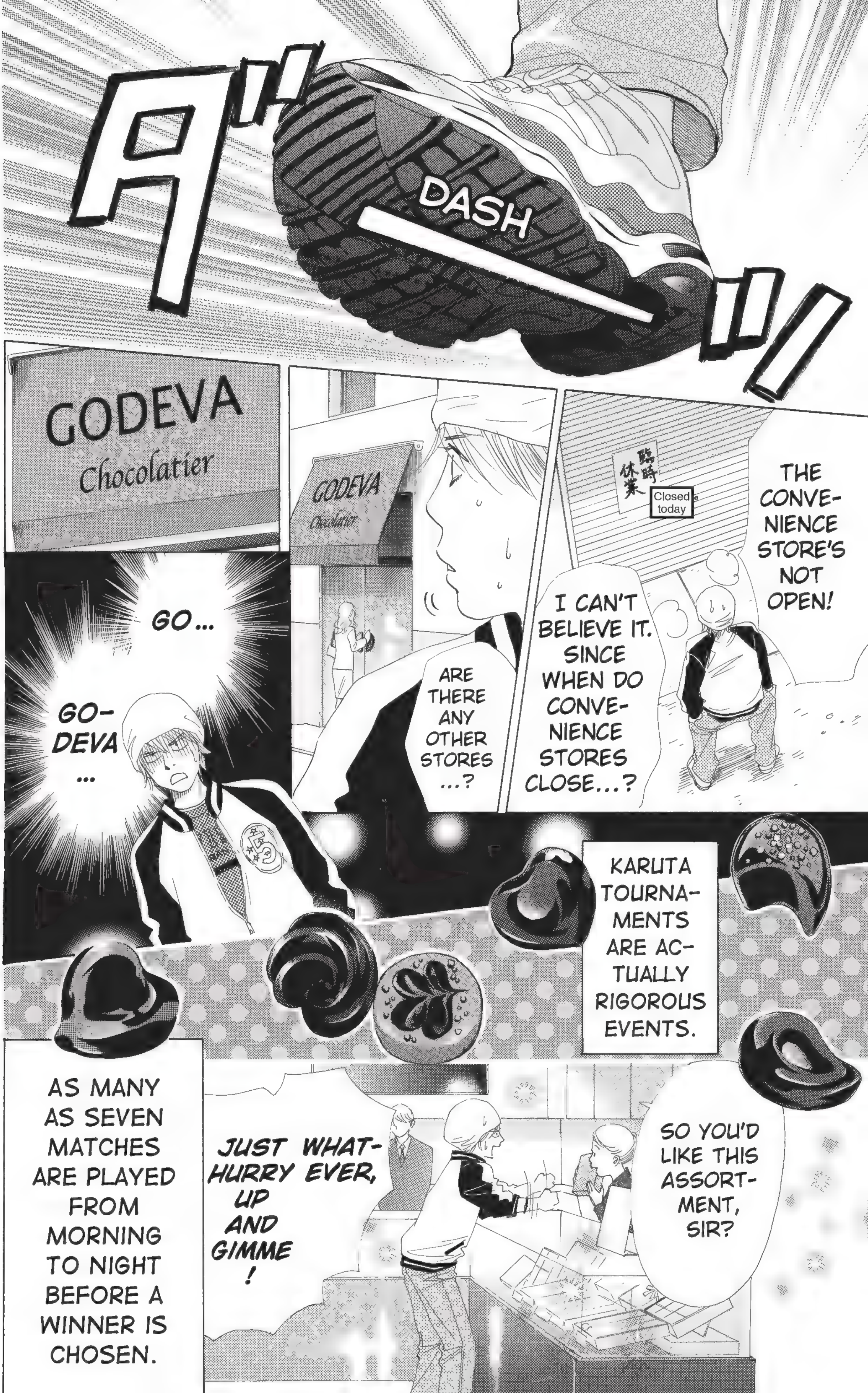
VERSE 8

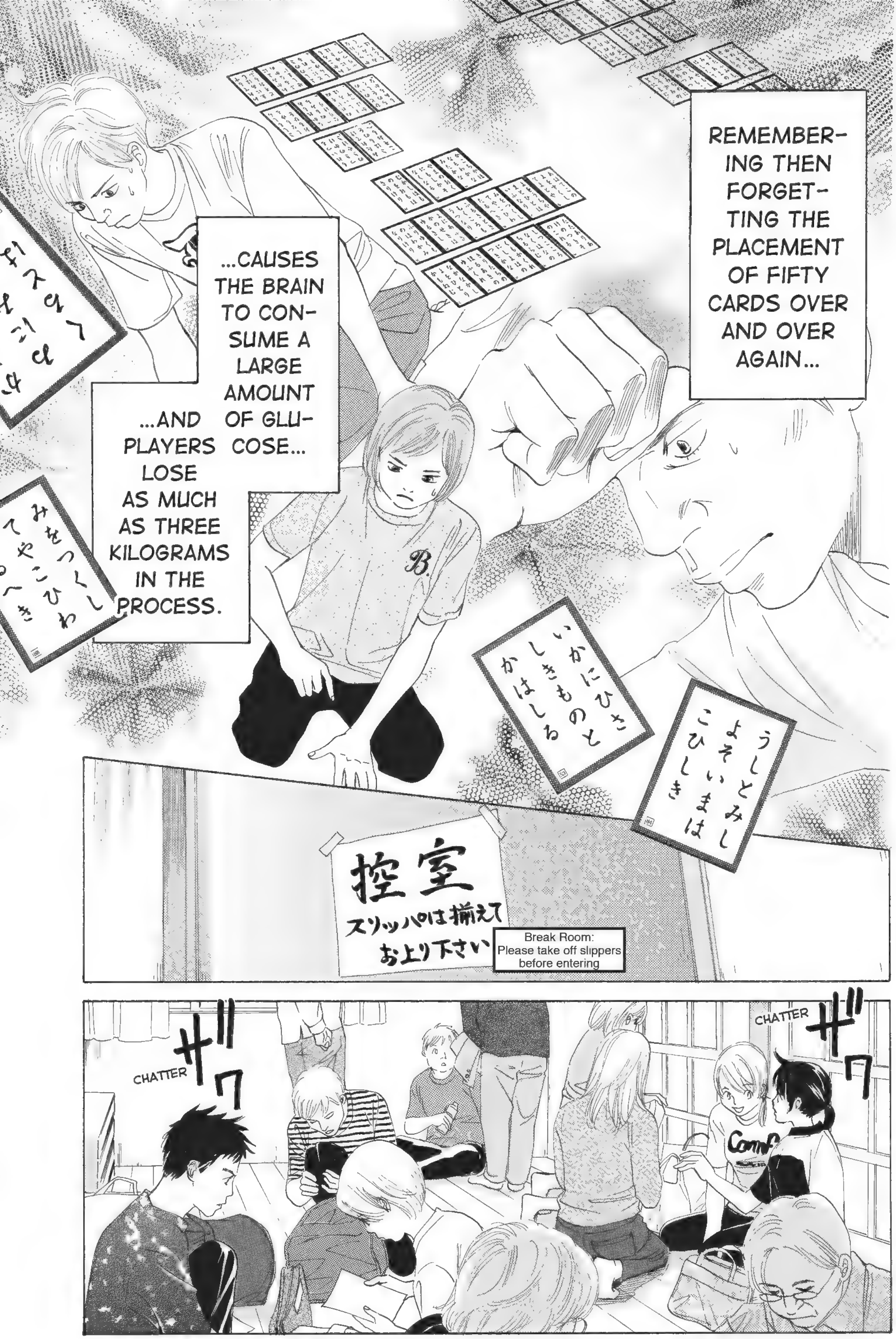
Chihayafuru

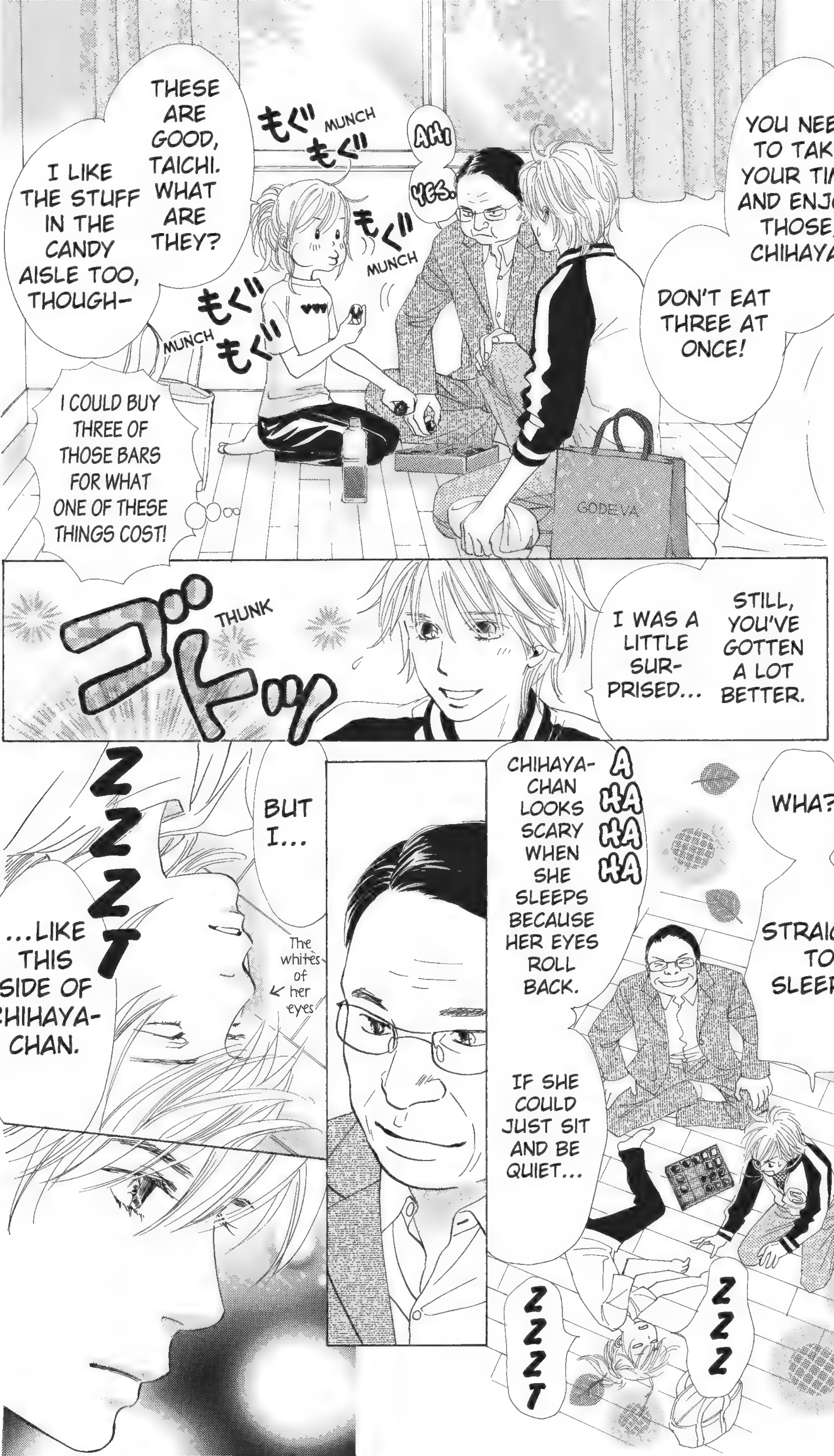
(社)全日本かるた協会機関誌
かるた展望
財団法人 全日本かるた協会

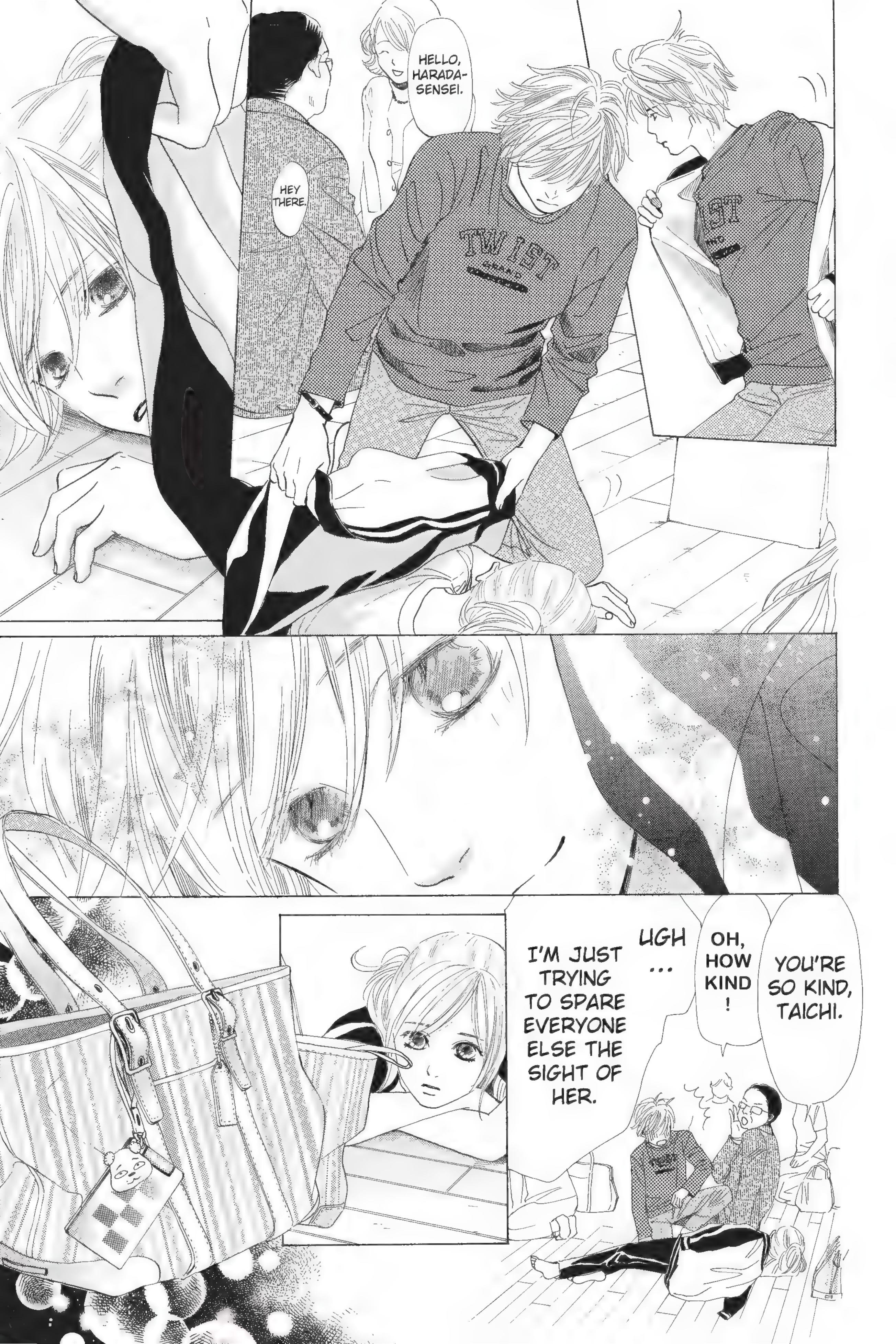

BAM
ALL RIGHT!
SHE'S MADE IT THROUGH ROUND THREE!
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Tsk.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

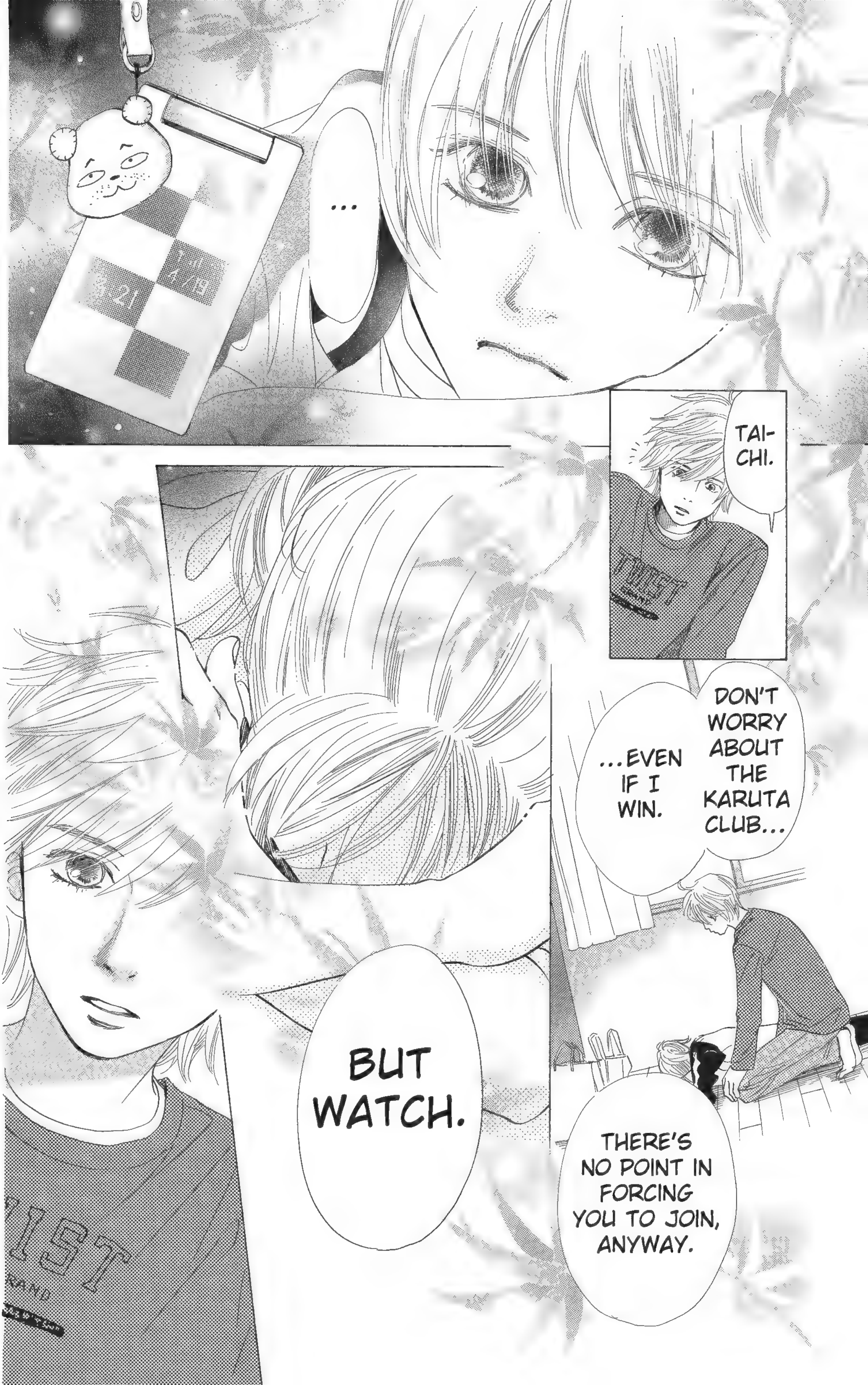

I'M SORRY FOR BEING LOUD DURING THE MATCH.
Ah well...
ビシイッ
BSST
!!
WHAT'S THAT?
THE OK SIGN?
THE CHOCOLATE SIGN!
GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND BUY SOME CHOCOLATES, EYELASHES!
HURRY!
HUH?!
GO!

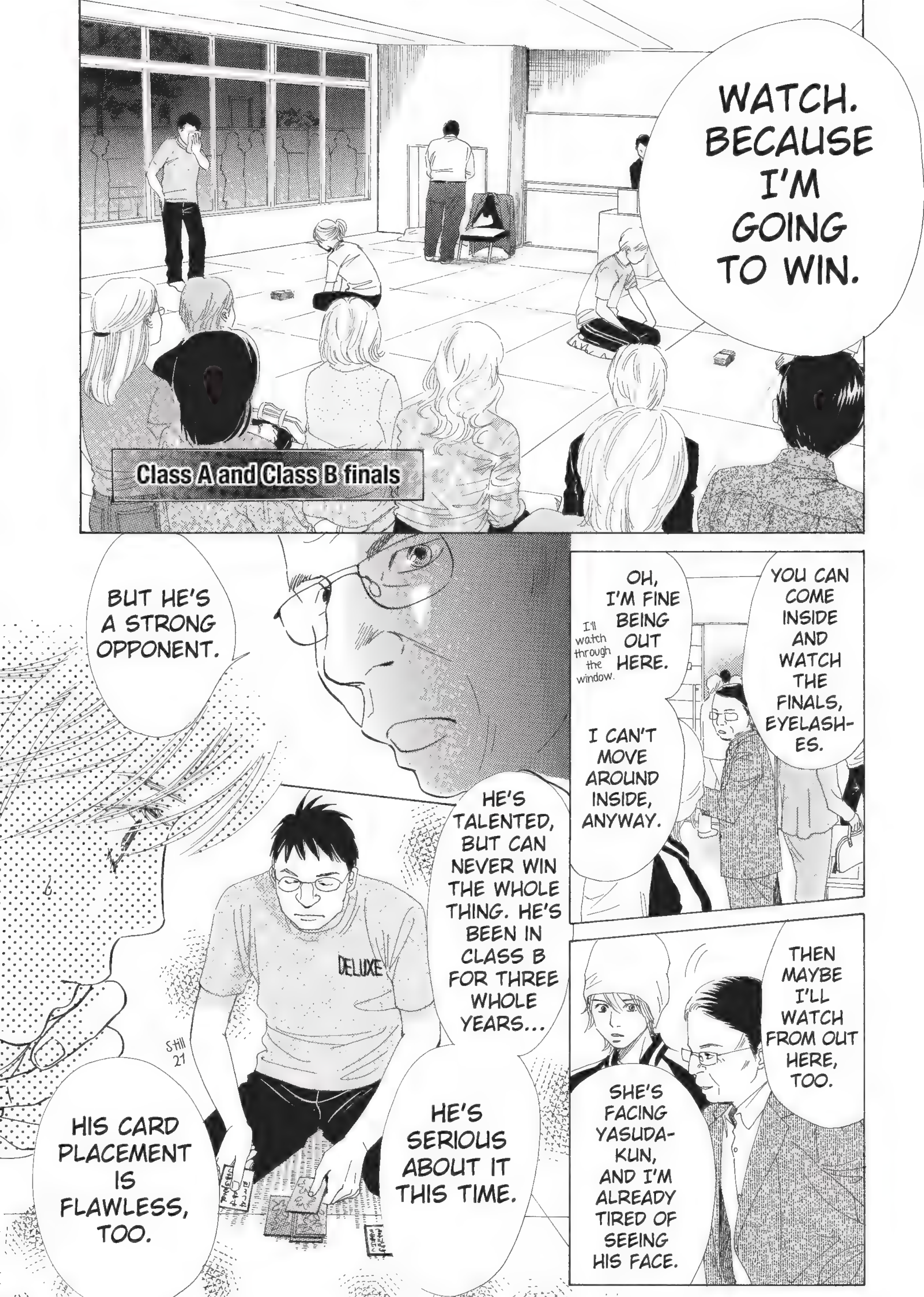

ダッ
DASH
THE CONVENIENCE STORE'S NOT OPEN!
臨時休業
Closed today
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. SINCE WHEN DO CONVENIENCE STORES CLOSE...?
GODEVA Chocolatier
ARE THERE ANY OTHER STORES...?
GODEVA Chocolatier
GO...
GO-DEVA...
KARUTA TOURNAMENTS ARE ACTUALLY RIGOROUS EVENTS.
SO YOU'D LIKE THIS ASSORTMENT, SIR?
JUST WHATEVER, HURRY UP AND GIMME!
AS MANY AS SEVEN MATCHES ARE PLAYED FROM MORNING TO NIGHT BEFORE A WINNER IS CHOSEN.


REMEMBERING THEN FORGETTING THE PLACEMENT OF FIFTY CARDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
...CAUSES THE BRAIN TO CONSUME A LARGE AMOUNT OF GLUCOSE...
...AND PLAYERS LOSE AS MUCH AS THREE KILOGRAMS IN THE PROCESS.
みをつくしてやこひわ
いかにひさしきものとかはしる
うしとみしよそいまはこひしき
控室
スリッパは揃えてお上り下さい
Break Room: Please take off slippers before entering
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER

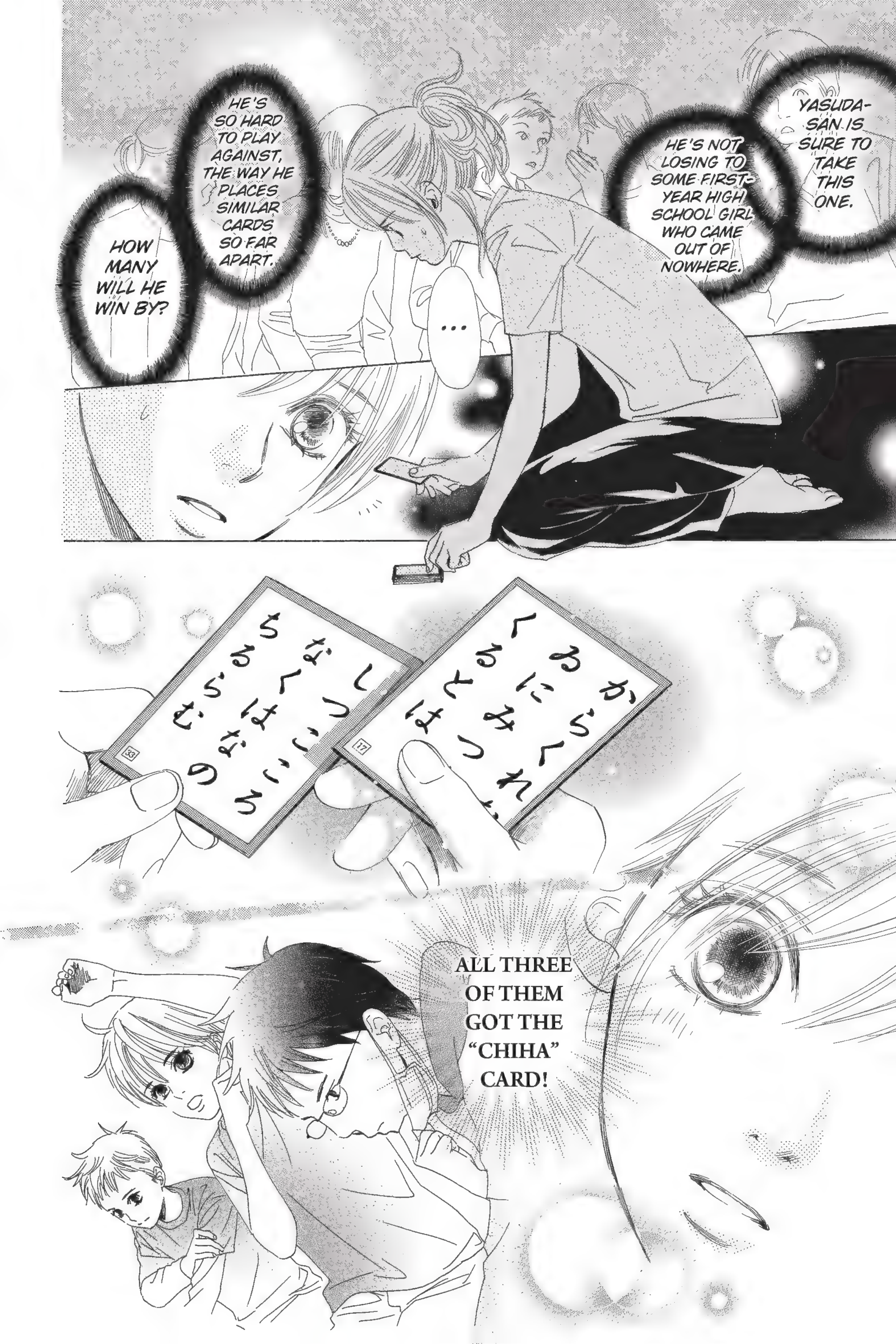

YOU NEED TO TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY THOSE, CHIHAYA.
DON'T EAT THREE AT ONCE!
AH!
YES.
もぐ MUNCH もぐ
もぐ MUNCH
THESE ARE GOOD, TAICHI. WHAT ARE THEY?
I LIKE THE STUFF IN THE CANDY AISLE TOO, THOUGH-
もぐ MUNCH もぐ
I COULD BUY THREE OF THOSE BARS FOR WHAT ONE OF THESE THINGS COST!
GODEVA
STILL, YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER.
I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED...
ゴトッ THUNK
WHA?
STRAIGHT TO SLEEP?!
ZZZT
A HA HA HA
CHIHAYA-CHAN LOOKS SCARY WHEN SHE SLEEPS BECAUSE HER EYES ROLL BACK.
IF SHE COULD JUST SIT AND BE QUIET...
ZZZT
BUT I...
...LIKE THIS SIDE OF CHIHAYA-CHAN.
The whites of her eyes
ZZZT

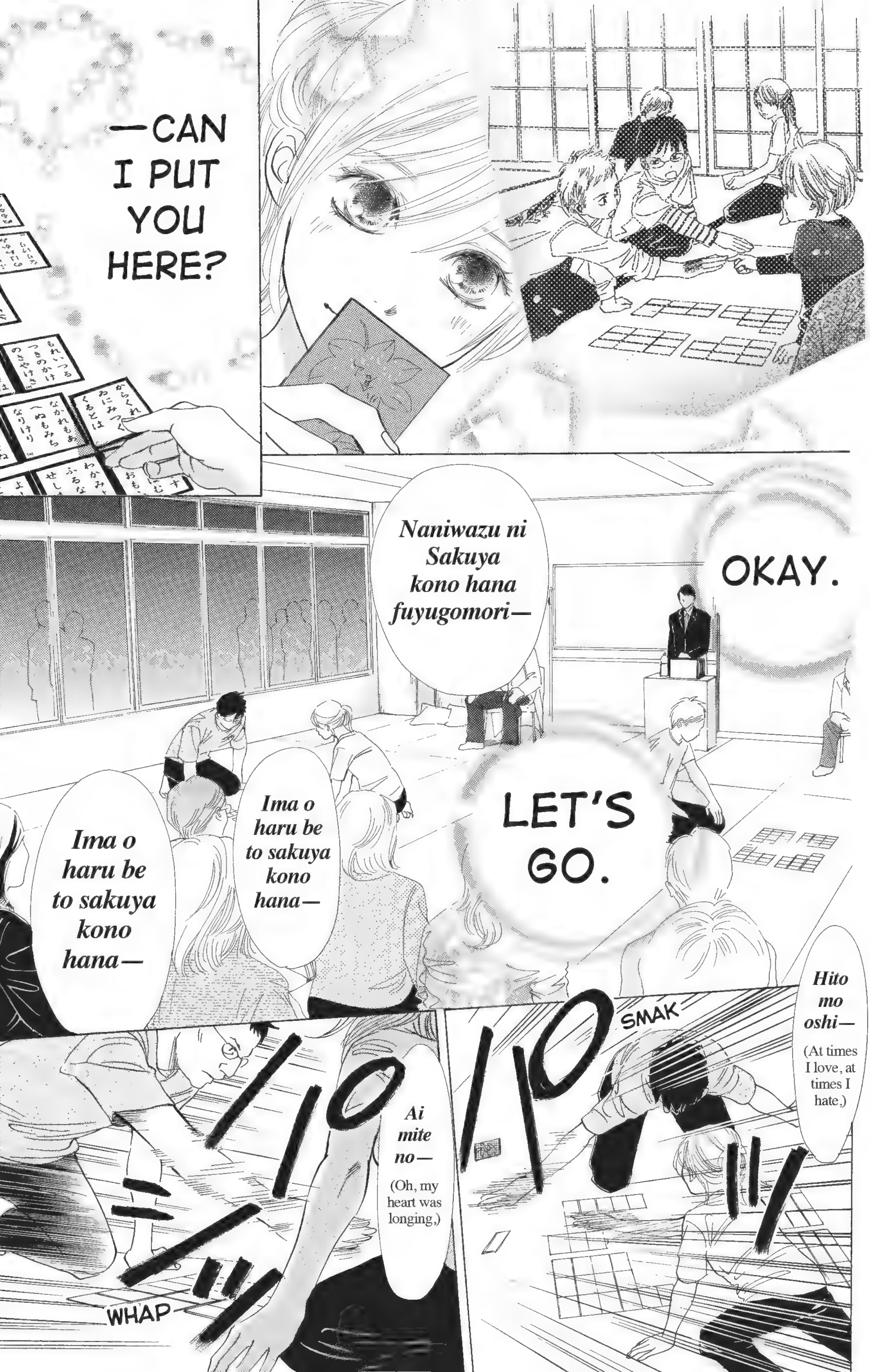

HELLO, HARADA-SENSEI.
HEY THERE.
YOU'RE SO KIND, TAICHI.
OH, HOW KIND!
UGH...
I'M JUST TRYING TO SPARE EVERYONE ELSE THE SIGHT OF HER.

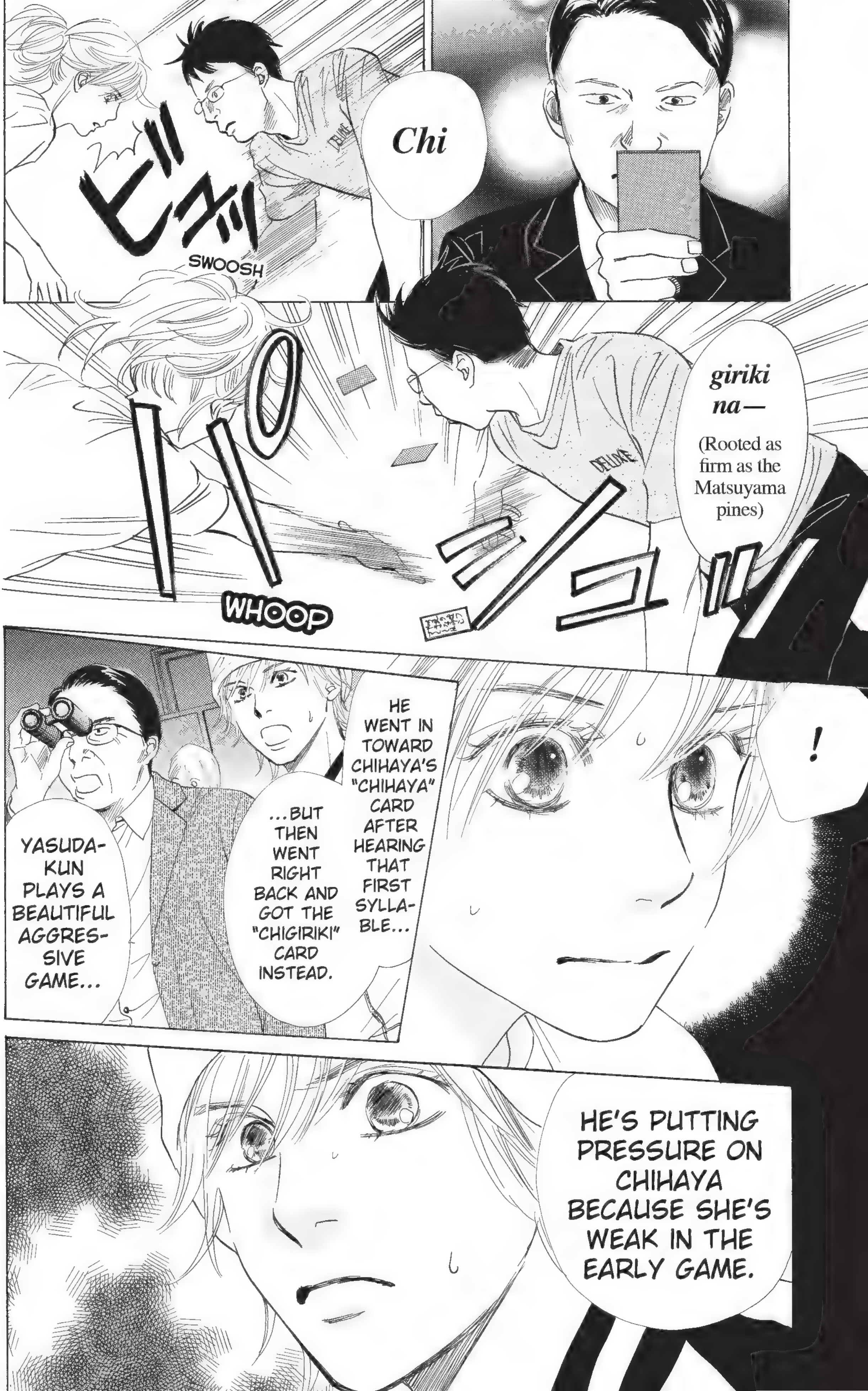

...
TAI-CHI.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE KARUTA CLUB...
...EVEN IF I WIN.
THERE'S NO POINT IN FORCING YOU TO JOIN, ANYWAY.
BUT WATCH.

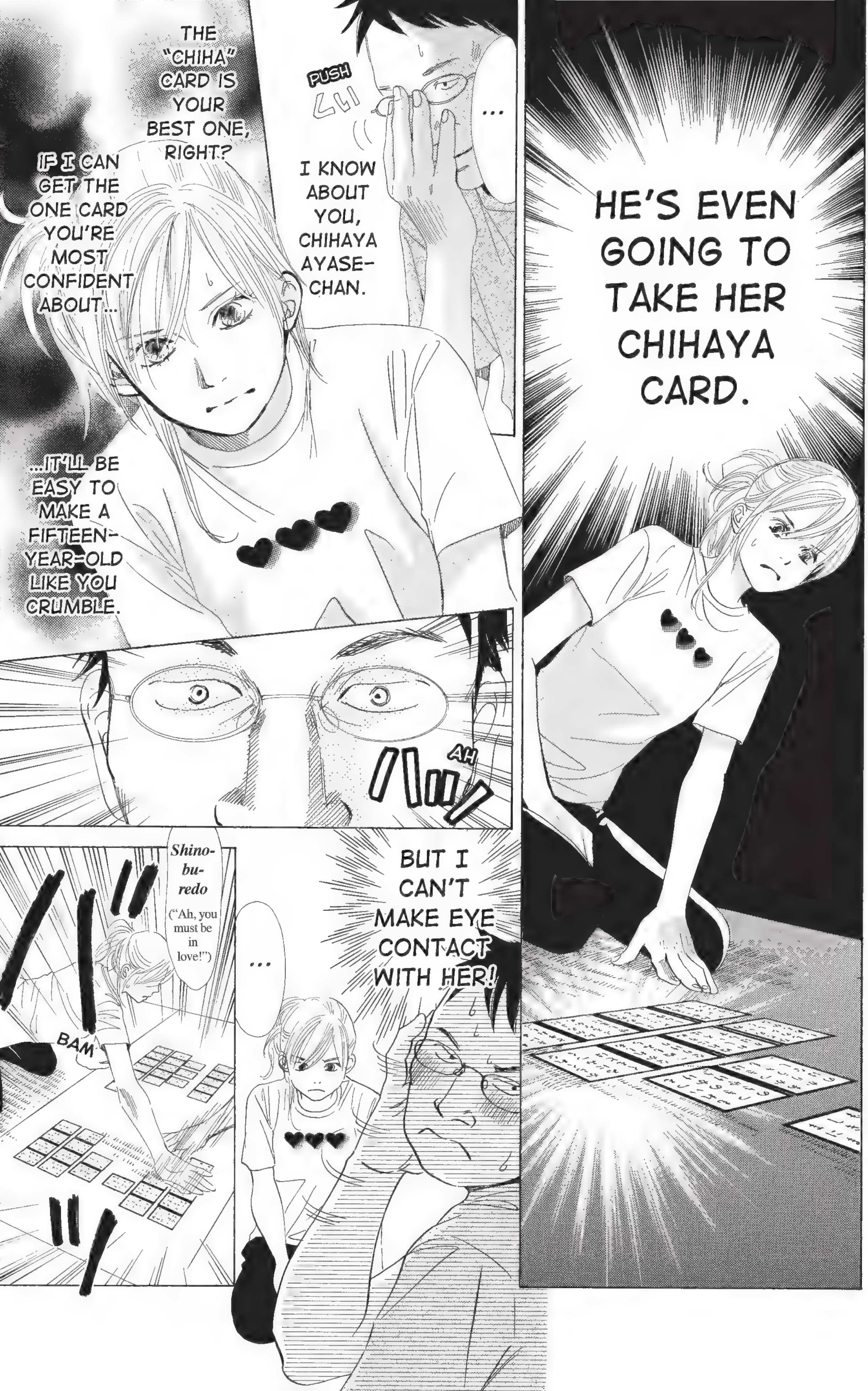

WATCH. BECAUSE I'M GOING TO WIN.
Class A and Class B finals
YOU CAN COME INSIDE AND WATCH THE FINALS, EYELASHES.
OH, I'M FINE BEING OUT HERE.
I'll watch through the window.
I CAN'T MOVE AROUND INSIDE, ANYWAY.
BUT HE'S A STRONG OPPONENT.
HE'S TALENTED, BUT CAN NEVER WIN THE WHOLE THING. HE'S BEEN IN CLASS B FOR THREE WHOLE YEARS...
DELUXE
Still 21
HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT IT THIS TIME.
HIS CARD PLACEMENT IS FLAWLESS, TOO.
THEN MAYBE I'LL WATCH FROM OUT HERE, TOO.
SHE'S FACING YASUDA-KUN, AND I'M ALREADY TIRED OF SEEING HIS FACE.

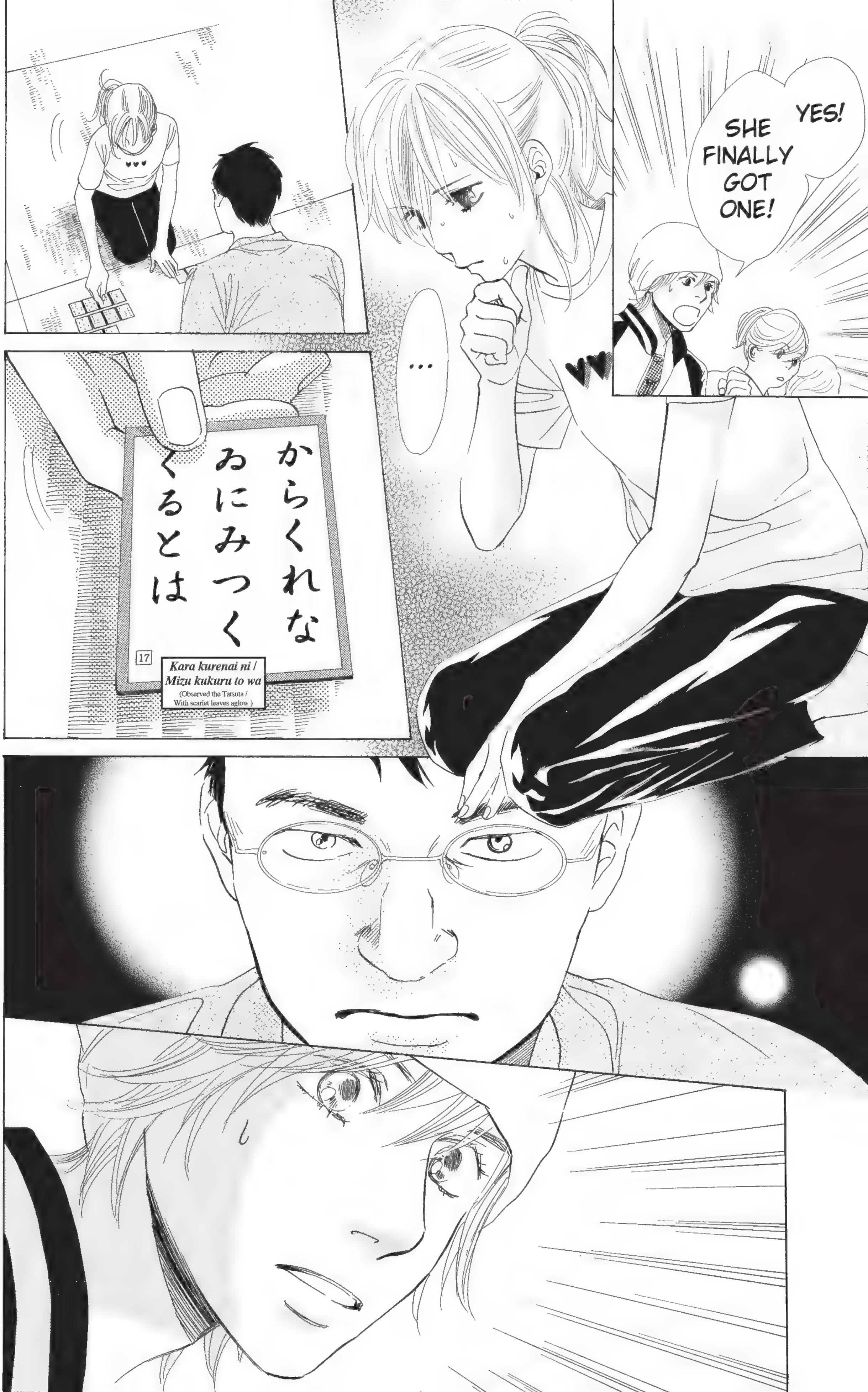
The rules of karuta	The two players each take 25 cards from the 100 total cards and line them up in three rows in their territory. The remaining fifty cards are not used. Taking a card in your territory results in you having one fewer card, while taking a card in enemy territory allows you to pass one card in your territory into the opponent's territory, leaving you with one fewer. Whichever player gets rid of all the cards in their territory first is the winner.

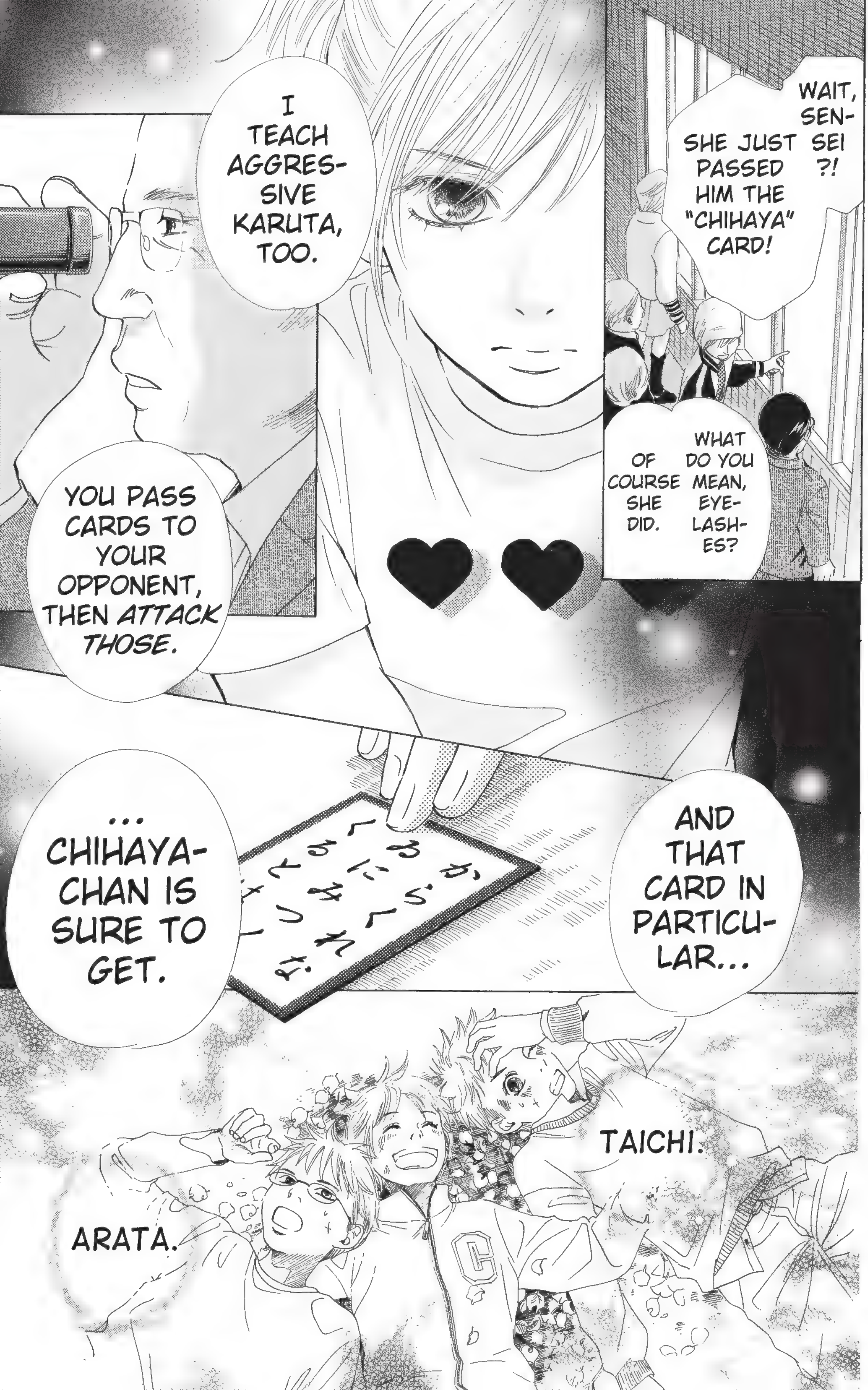

YASUDA-SAN IS SURE TO TAKE THIS ONE.
HE'S NOT LOSING TO SOME FIRST-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.
HE'S SO HARD TO PLAY AGAINST, THE WAY HE PLACES SIMILAR CARDS SO FAR APART.
HOW MANY WILL HE WIN BY?
...
からくれ
ゐにみつ
くるとは
17
しつこころ
なくはなの
ちるらむ
33
ALL THREE OF THEM GOT THE "CHIHA" CARD!

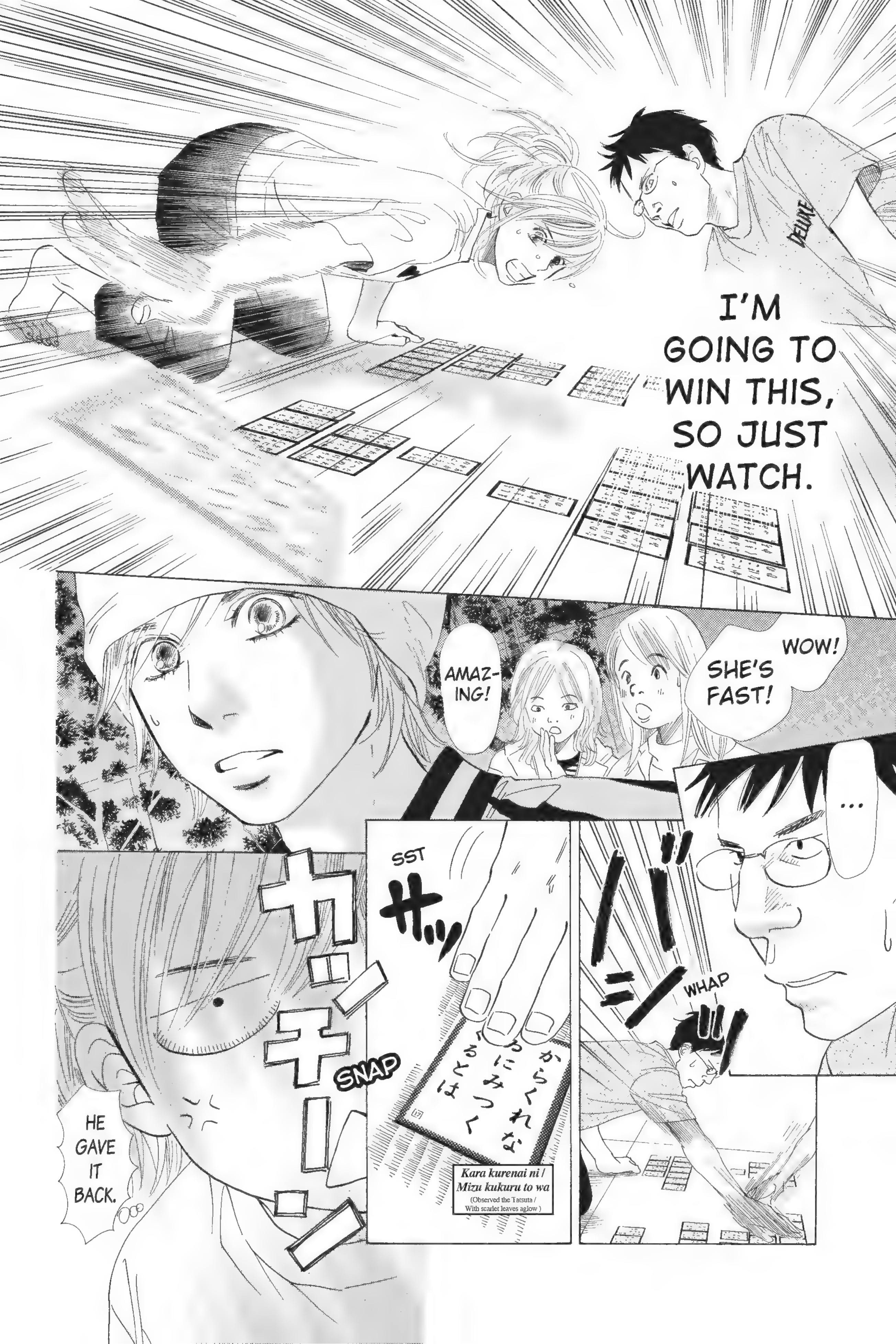

—CAN I PUT YOU HERE?
もれいづる つきのかけ のさやけさ
からくれ ゐにみづく くるとは
なかれもあ へぬもみち なりけり
OKAY.
LET'S GO.
Naniwazu ni Sakuya kono hana fuyugomori—
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana—
Ima o haru be to sakuya kono hana—
SMAK
Hito mo oshi— (At times I love, at times I hate,)
Ai mite no— (Oh, my heart was longing,)
WHAP

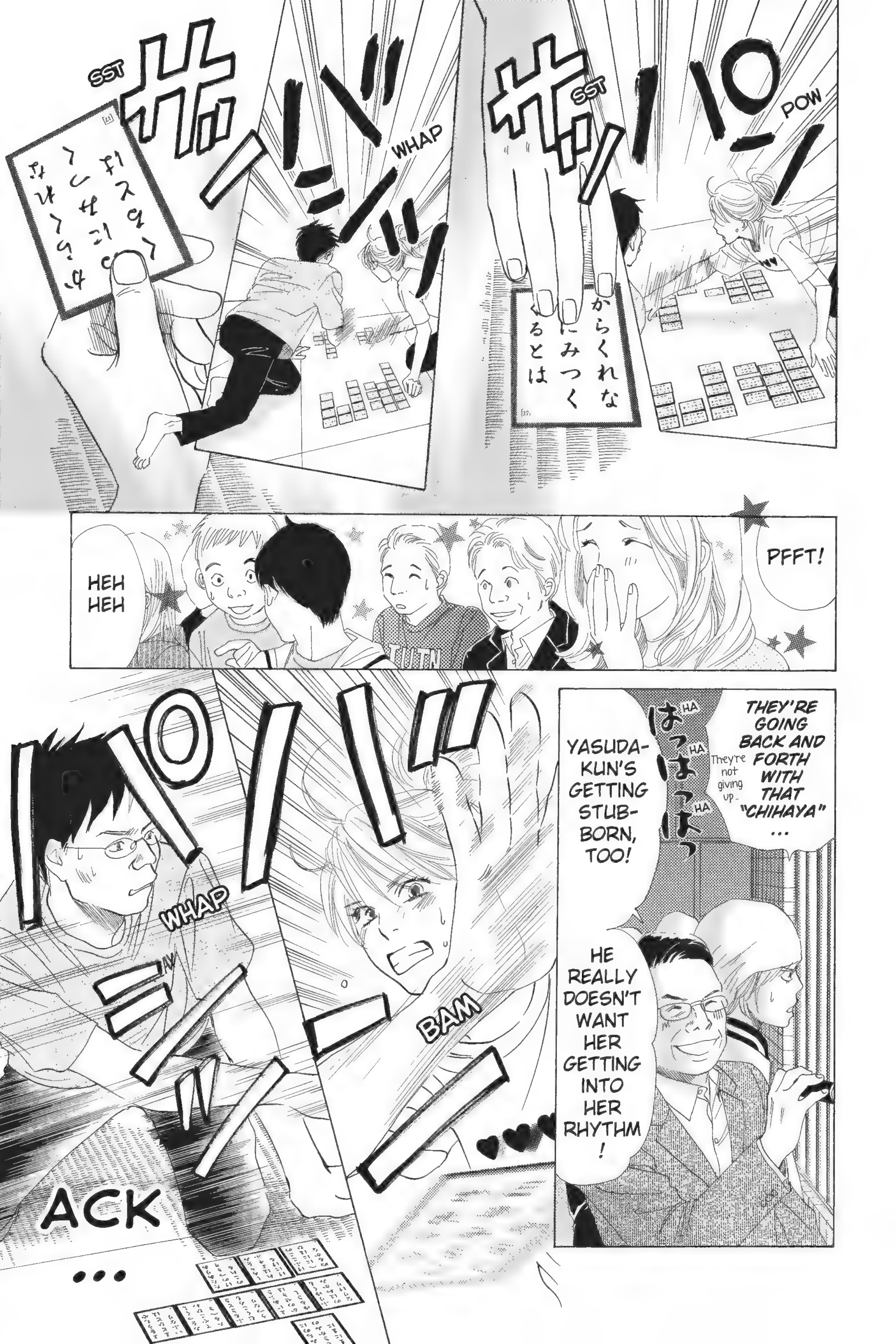

Chi
SWOOSH
giriki na—
(Rooted as firm as the Matsuyama pines)
WHOOP
!
HE WENT IN TOWARD CHIHAYA'S "CHIHAYA" CARD AFTER HEARING THAT FIRST SYLLABLE...
...BUT THEN WENT RIGHT BACK AND GOT THE "CHIGIRIKI" CARD INSTEAD.
YASUDA-KUN PLAYS A BEAUTIFUL AGGRESSIVE GAME...
HE'S PUTTING PRESSURE ON CHIHAYA BECAUSE SHE'S WEAK IN THE EARLY GAME.

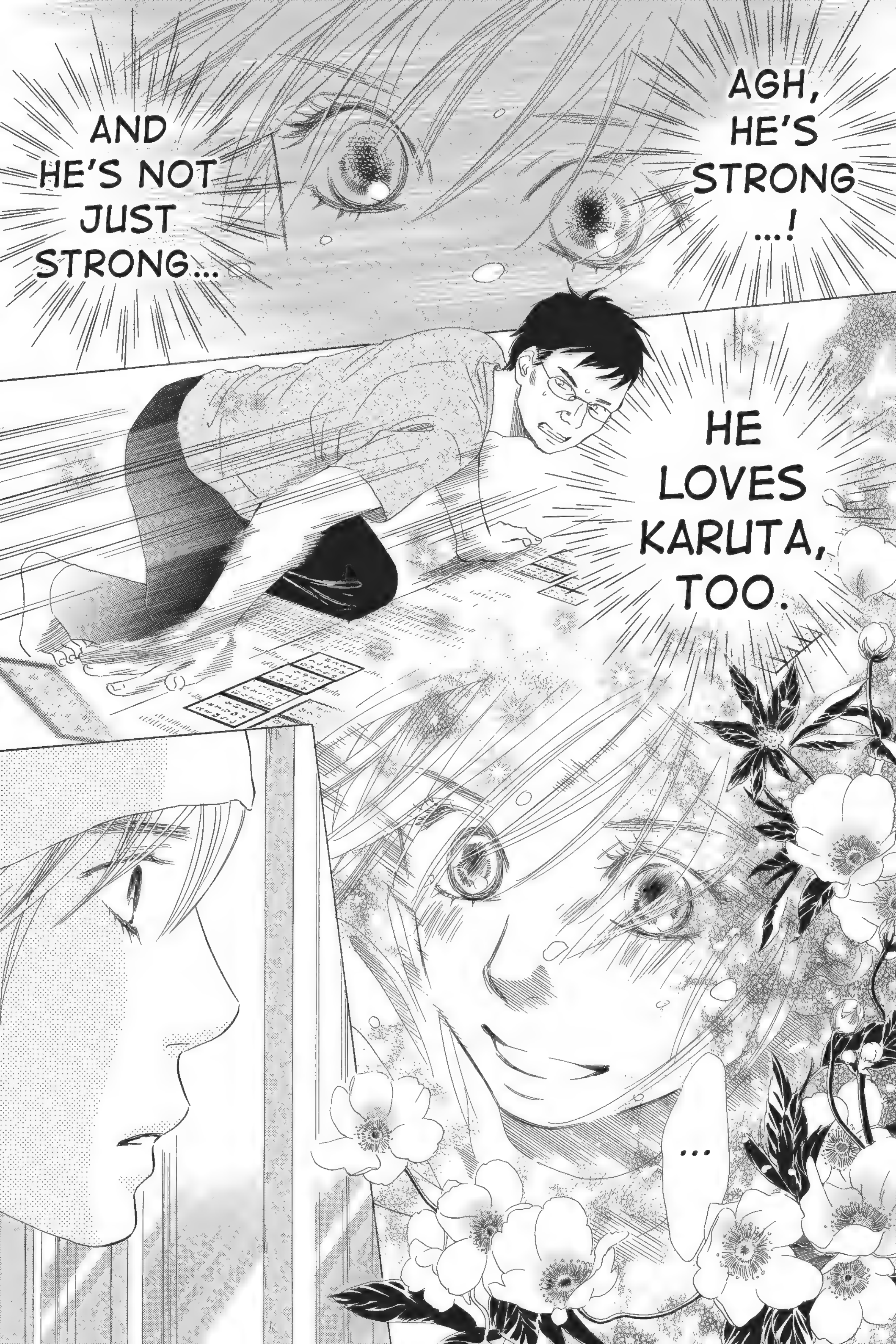

HE'S EVEN GOING TO TAKE HER CHIHAYA CARD.
PUSH
くい
...
I KNOW ABOUT YOU, CHIHAYA AYASE-CHAN.
THE "CHIHA" CARD IS YOUR BEST ONE, RIGHT?
IF I CAN GET THE ONE CARD YOU'RE MOST CONFIDENT ABOUT...
...IT'LL BE EASY TO MAKE A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD LIKE YOU CRUMBLE.
AH
BUT I CAN'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH HER!
...
Shino-bu-redo ("Ah, you must be in love!")
BAM

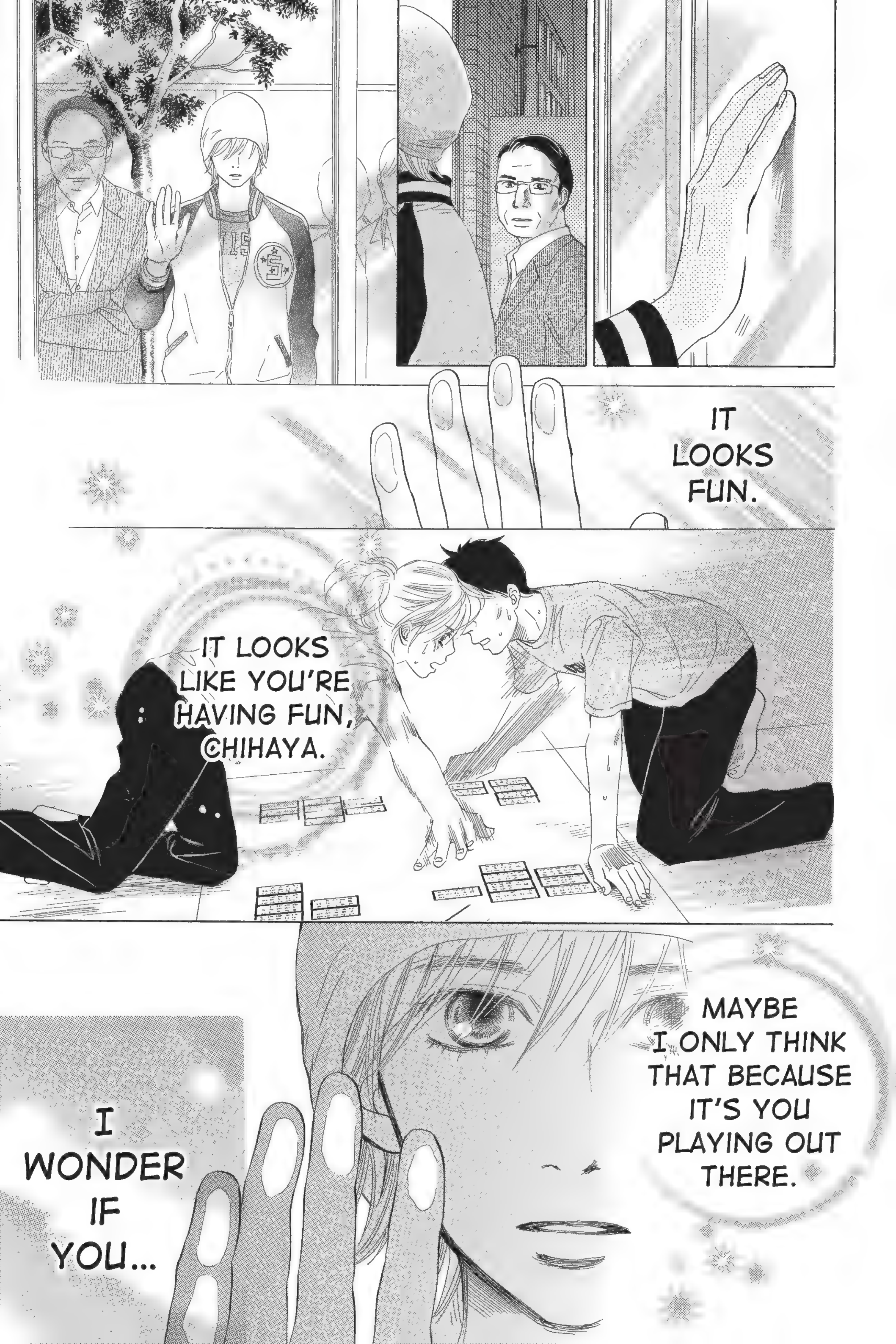

YES!
SHE FINALLY GOT ONE!
…
からくれなゐにみつくくるとは
17
Kara kurenai ni / Mizu kukuru to wa
(Observed the Tatsuta / With scarlet leaves aglow.)

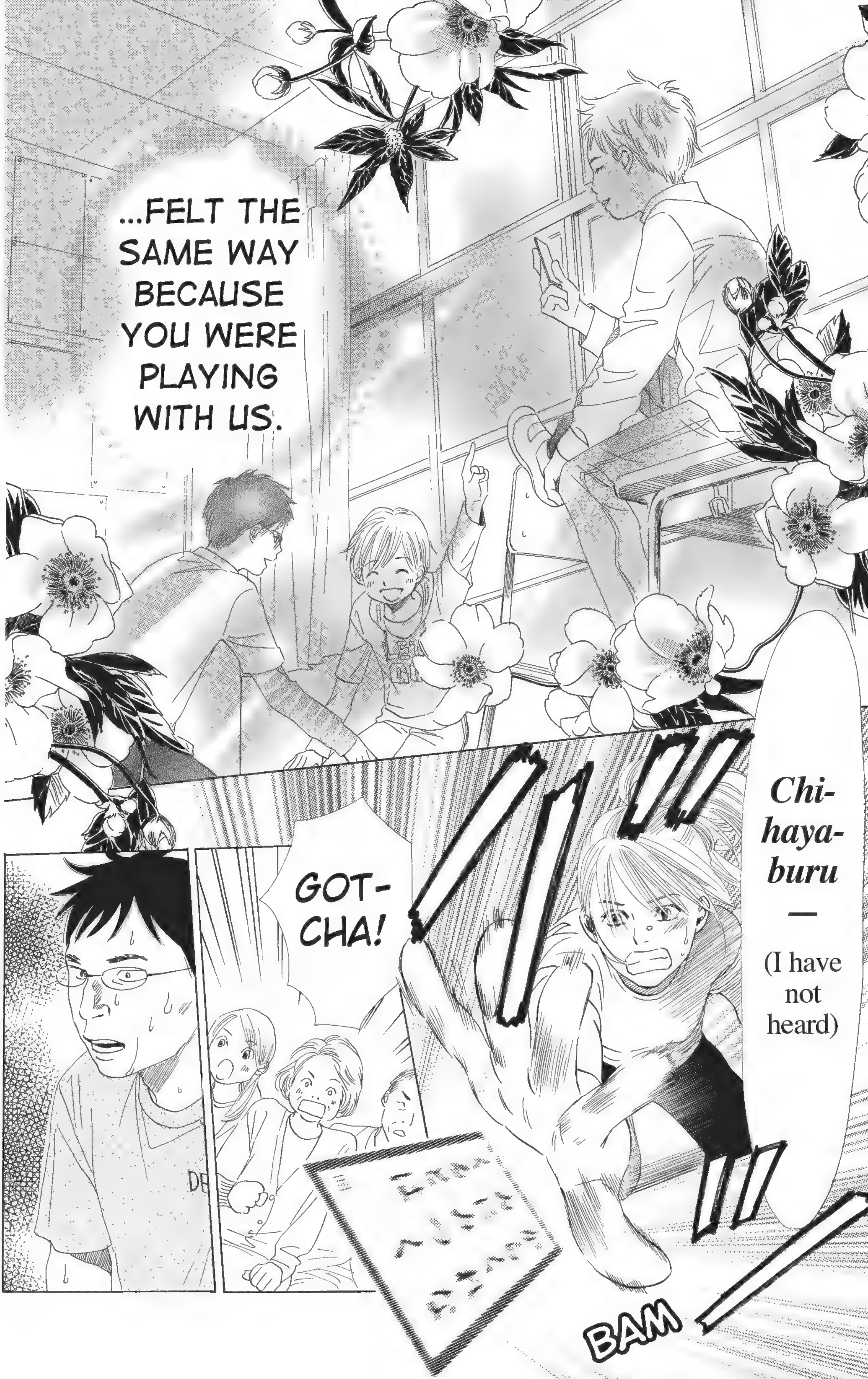

WAIT, SENSEI?!
SHE JUST PASSED HIM THE "CHIHAYA" CARD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EYELASHES?
OF COURSE SHE DID.
I TEACH AGGRESSIVE KARUTA, TOO.
YOU PASS CARDS TO YOUR OPPONENT, THEN *ATTACK THOSE.*
AND THAT CARD IN PARTICULAR...
...CHIHAYA-CHAN IS SURE TO GET.
TAICHI.
ARATA.

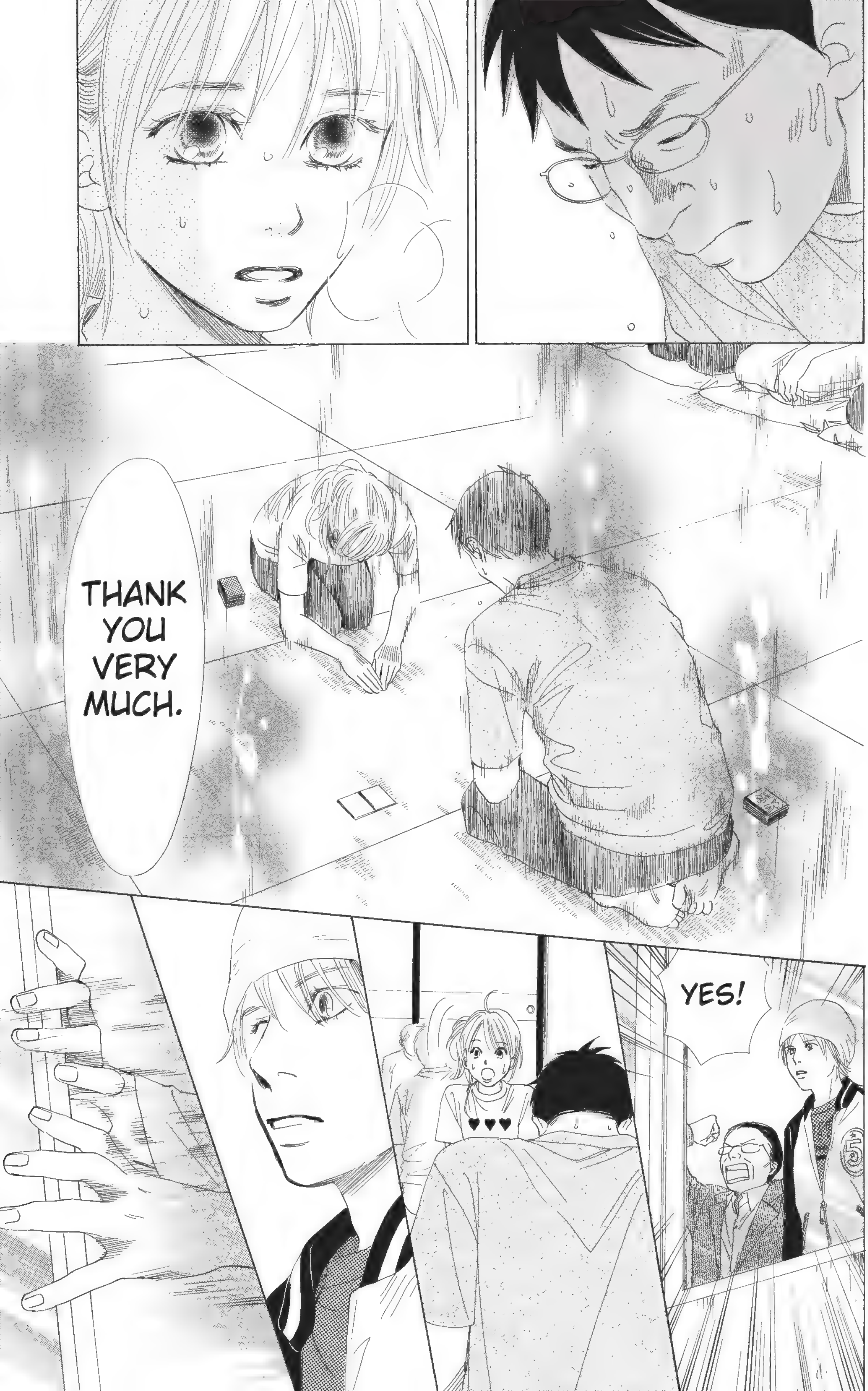

I'M GOING TO WIN THIS, SO JUST WATCH.
WOW!
SHE'S FAST!
AMAZING!
...
バーン
WHAP
サッ
SST
からくれな
ゐにみつく
くるとは
17
Kara kurenai ni / Mizu kukuru to wa
(Observed the Tatsuta / With scarlet leaves aglow)
カーチーン
SNAP
HE GAVE IT BACK.

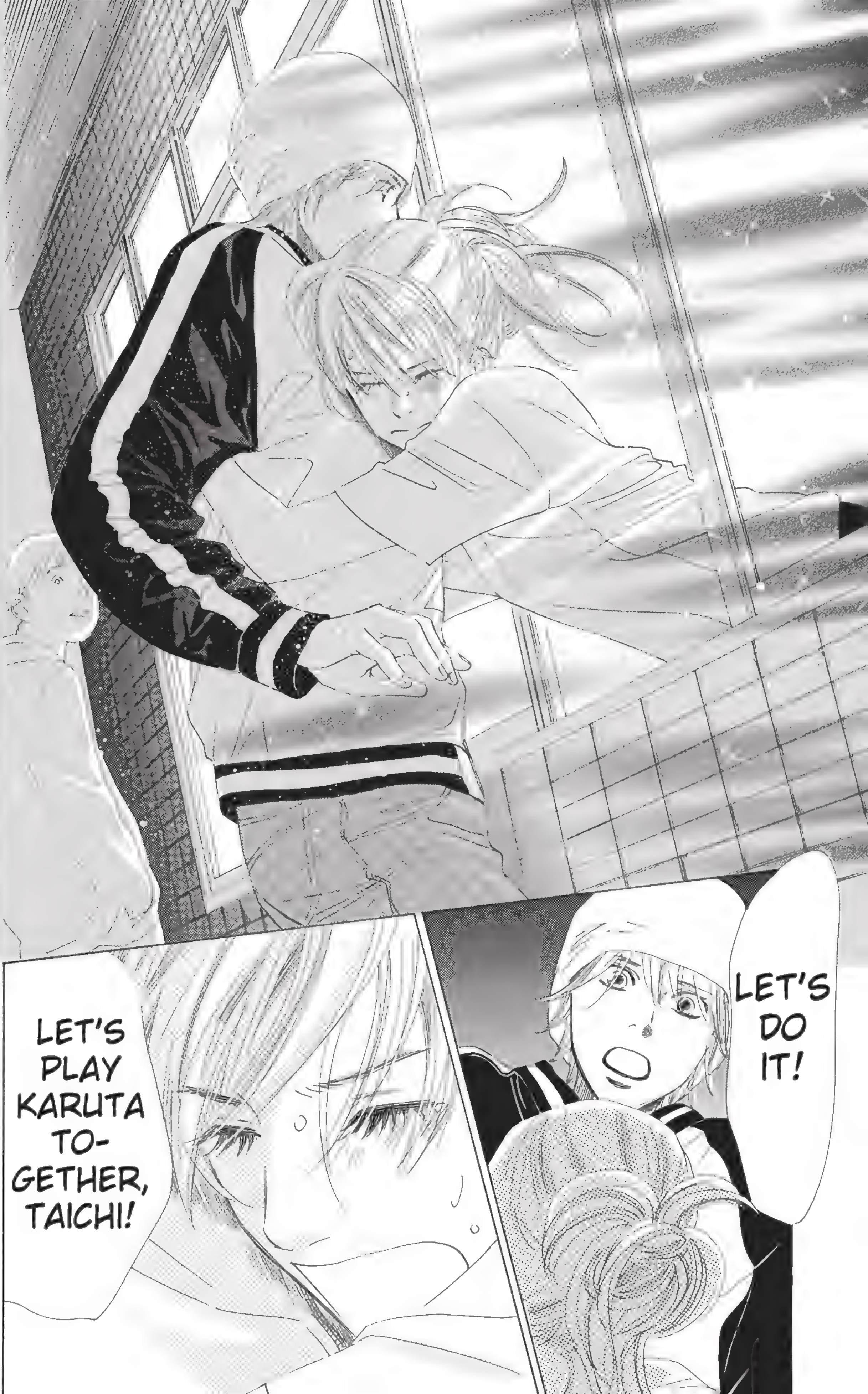

サッ SST
パーン POW
からくれな
にみつく
るとは
サッ SST
バーン WHAP
PFFT!
HEH HEH
THEY'RE GOING BACK AND FORTH WITH THAT "CHIHAYA"...
They're not giving up..
ははは HA HA HA
YASUDA-KUN'S GETTING STUBBORN, TOO!
HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT HER GETTING INTO HER RHYTHM!
パーン WHAP
バーン BAM
ACK
...

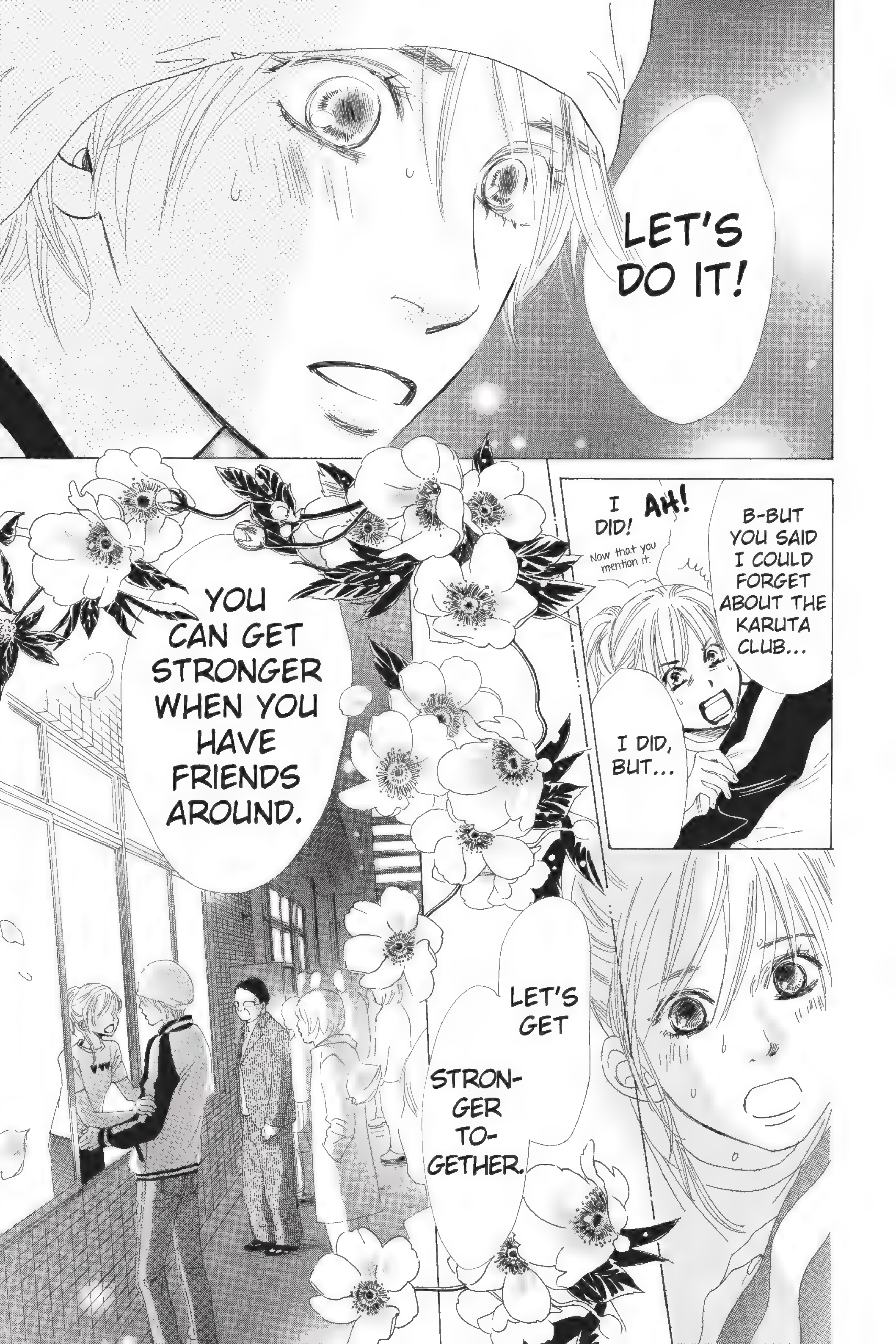

AGH, HE'S STRONG ...!
AND HE'S NOT JUST STRONG...
HE LOVES KARUTA, TOO.
...

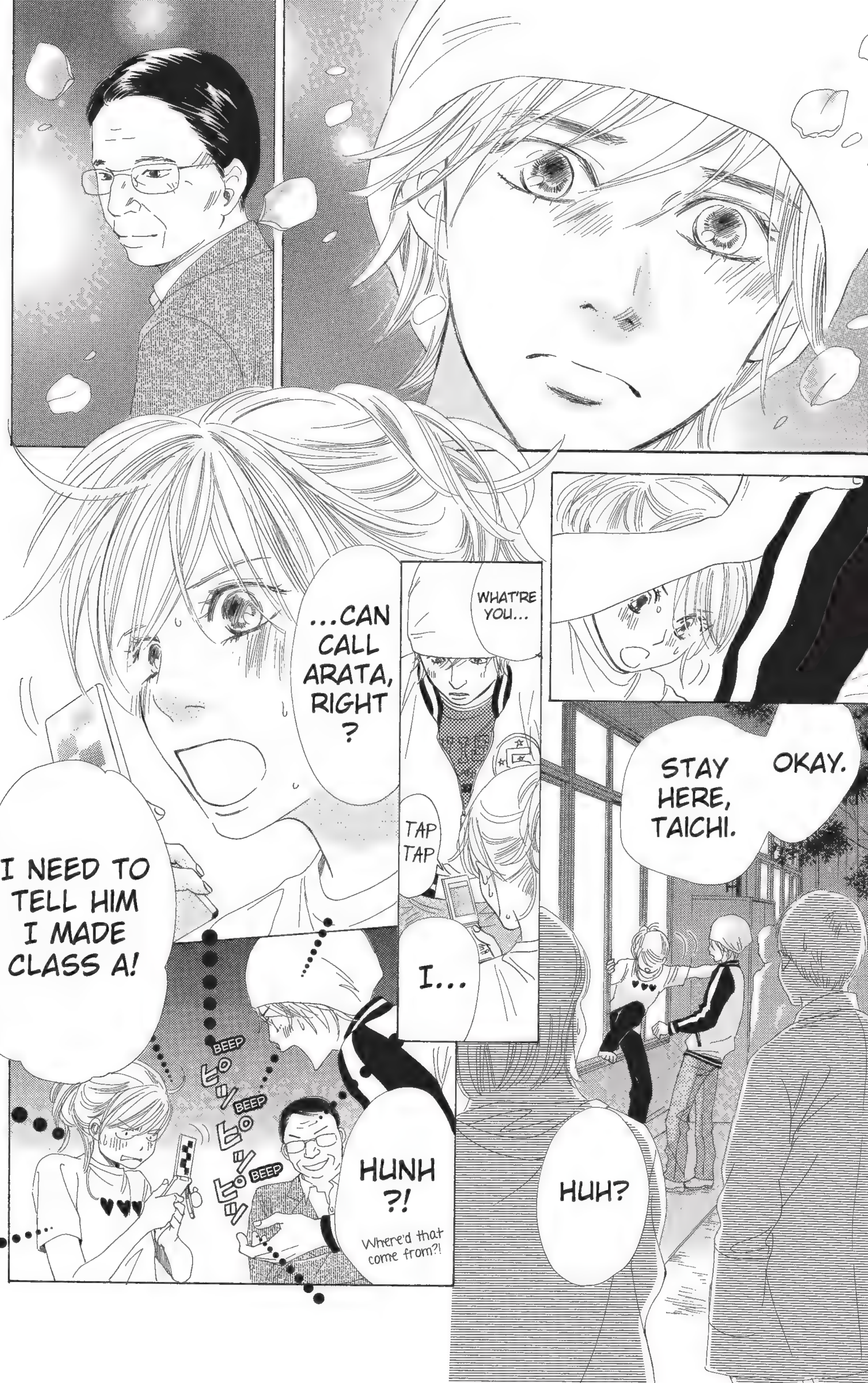

IT LOOKS FUN.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, CHIHAYA.
MAYBE I ONLY THINK THAT BECAUSE IT'S YOU PLAYING OUT THERE.
I WONDER IF YOU...

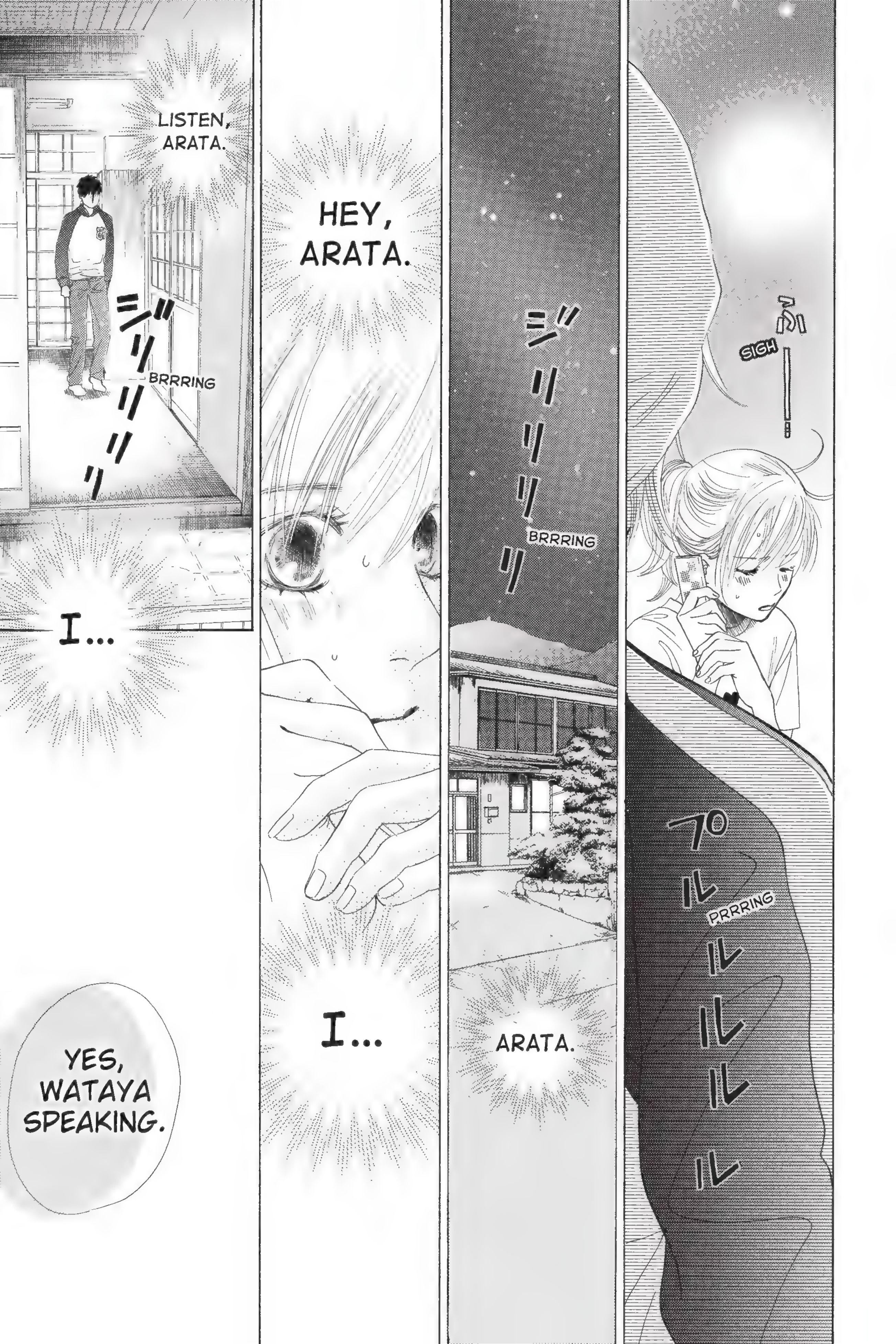

...FELT THE SAME WAY BECAUSE YOU WERE PLAYING WITH US.
Chihayaburu — (I have not heard)
GOTCHA!
BAM

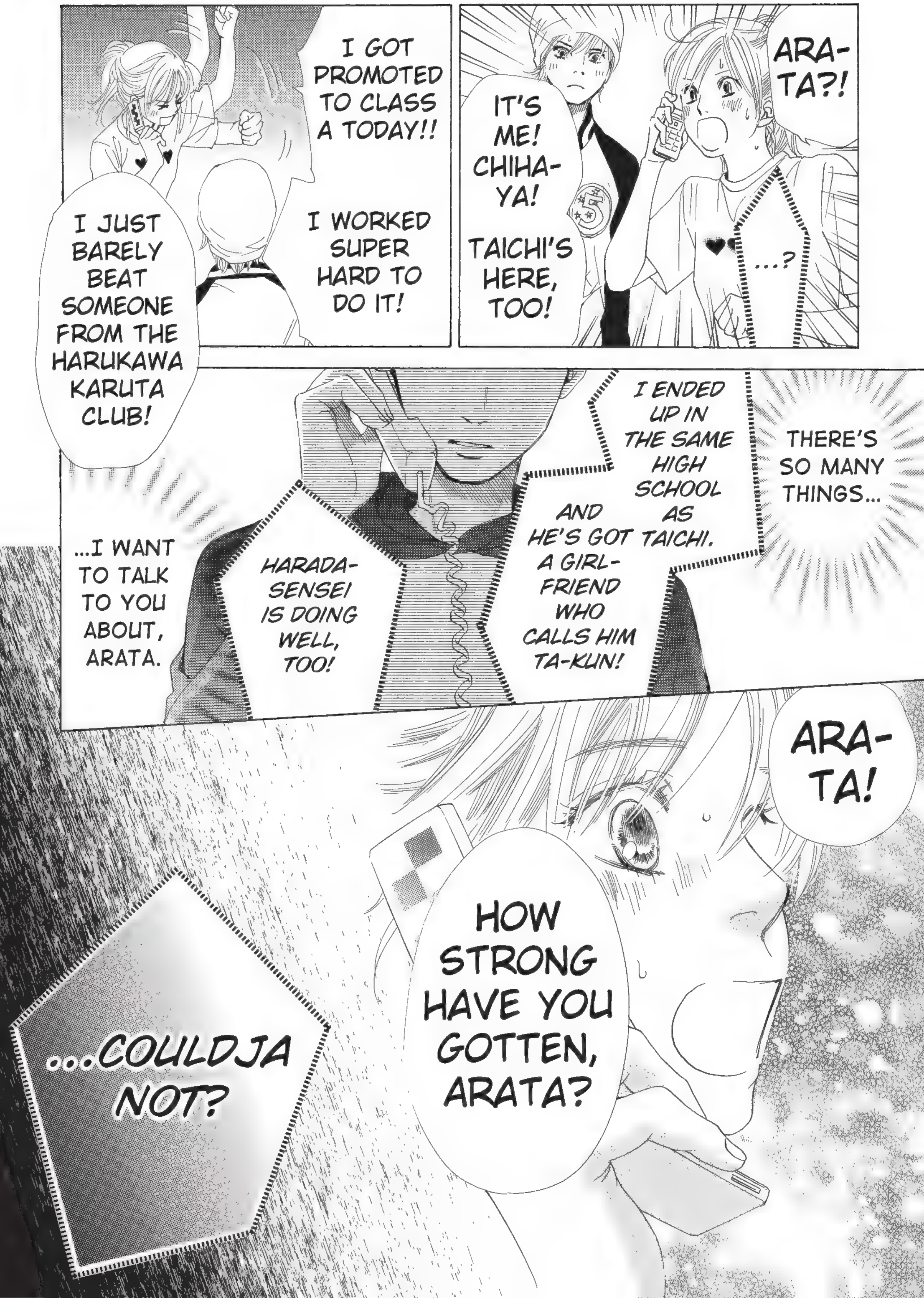

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YES!

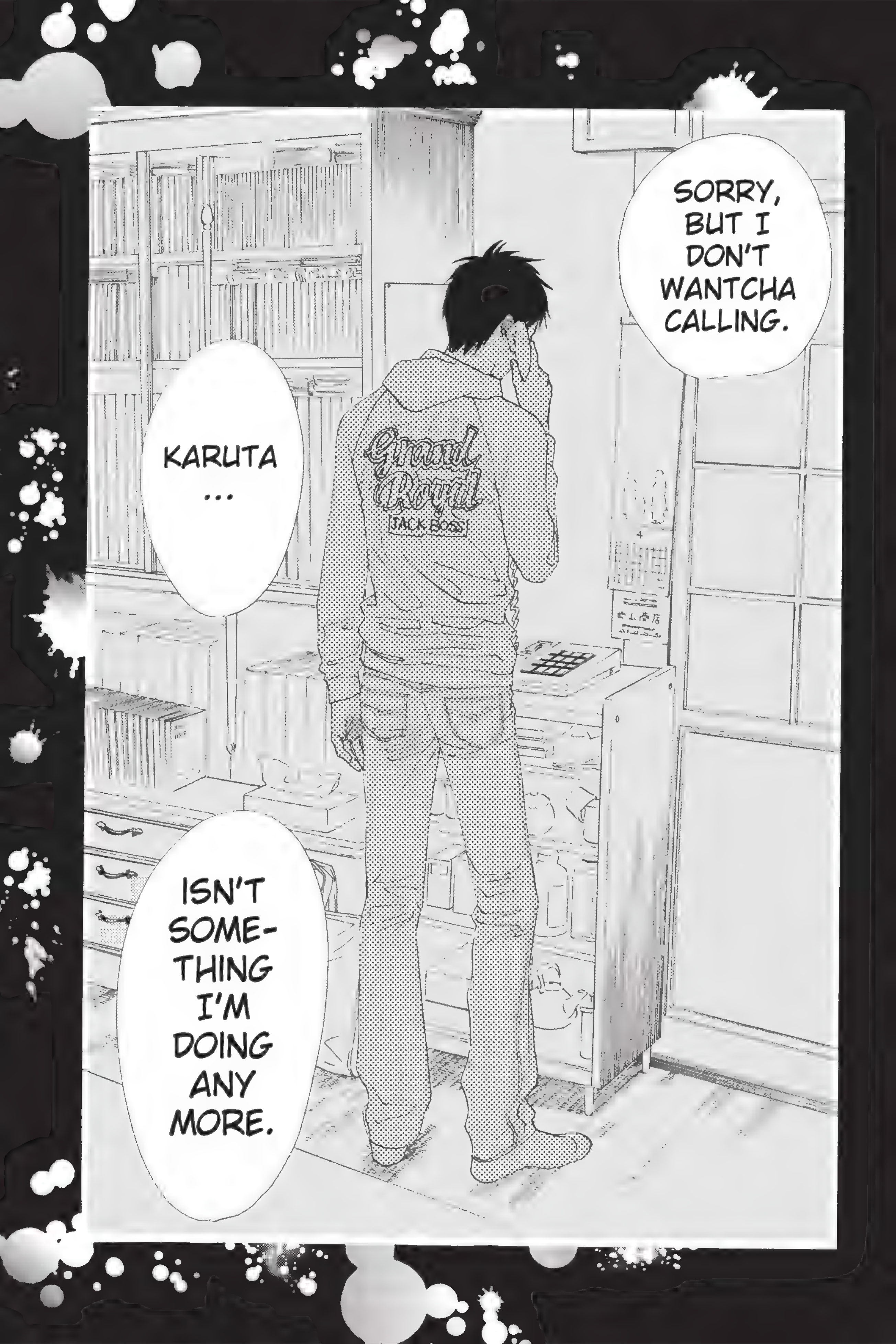

LET'S DO IT!
LET'S PLAY KARUTA TOGETHER, TAICHI!

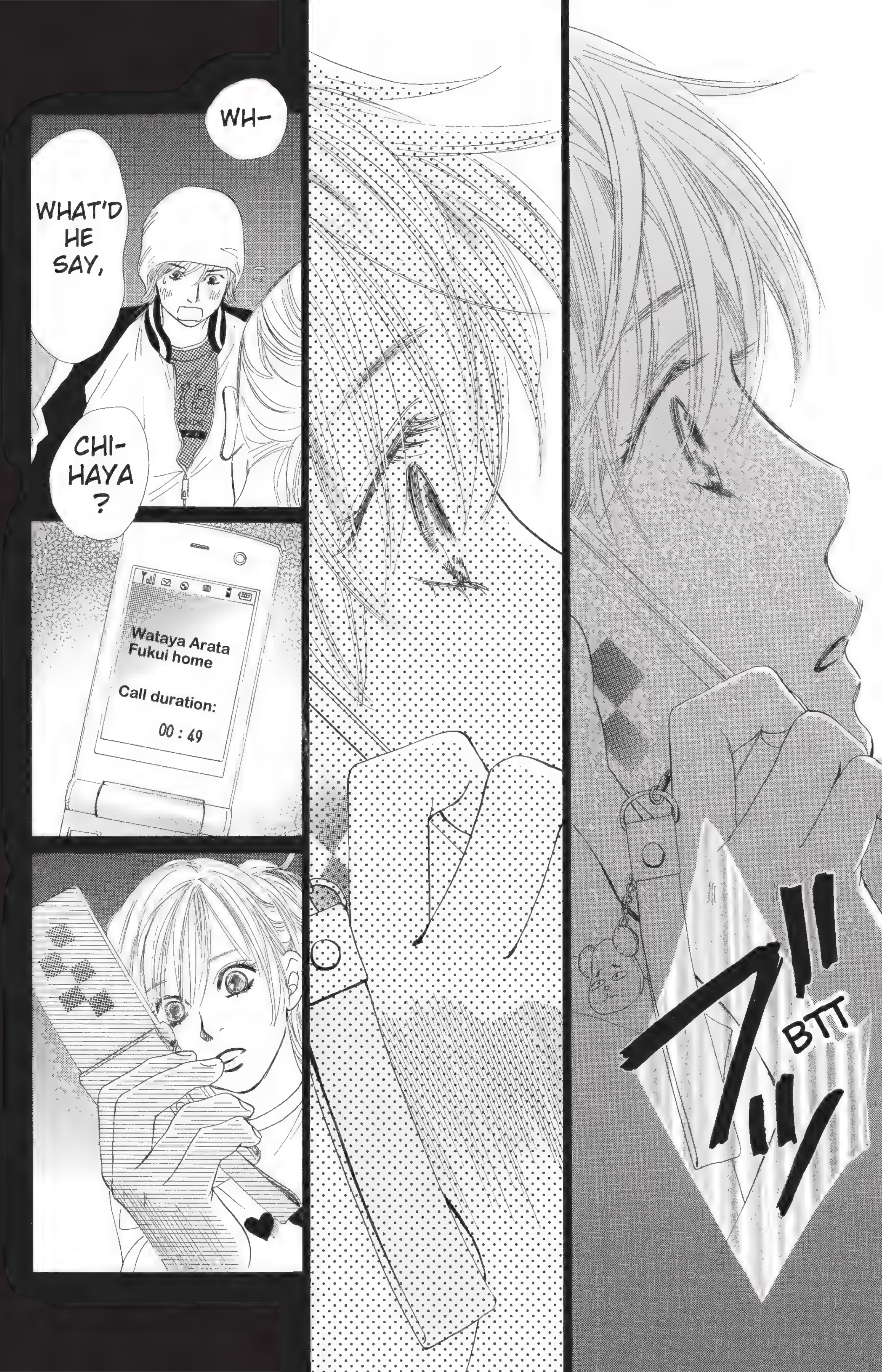

LET'S DO IT!
B-BUT YOU SAID I COULD FORGET ABOUT THE KARUTA CLUB...
AH!
I DID! Now that you mention it.
I DID, BUT...
YOU CAN GET STRONGER WHEN YOU HAVE FRIENDS AROUND.
LET'S GET STRONGER TOGETHER.

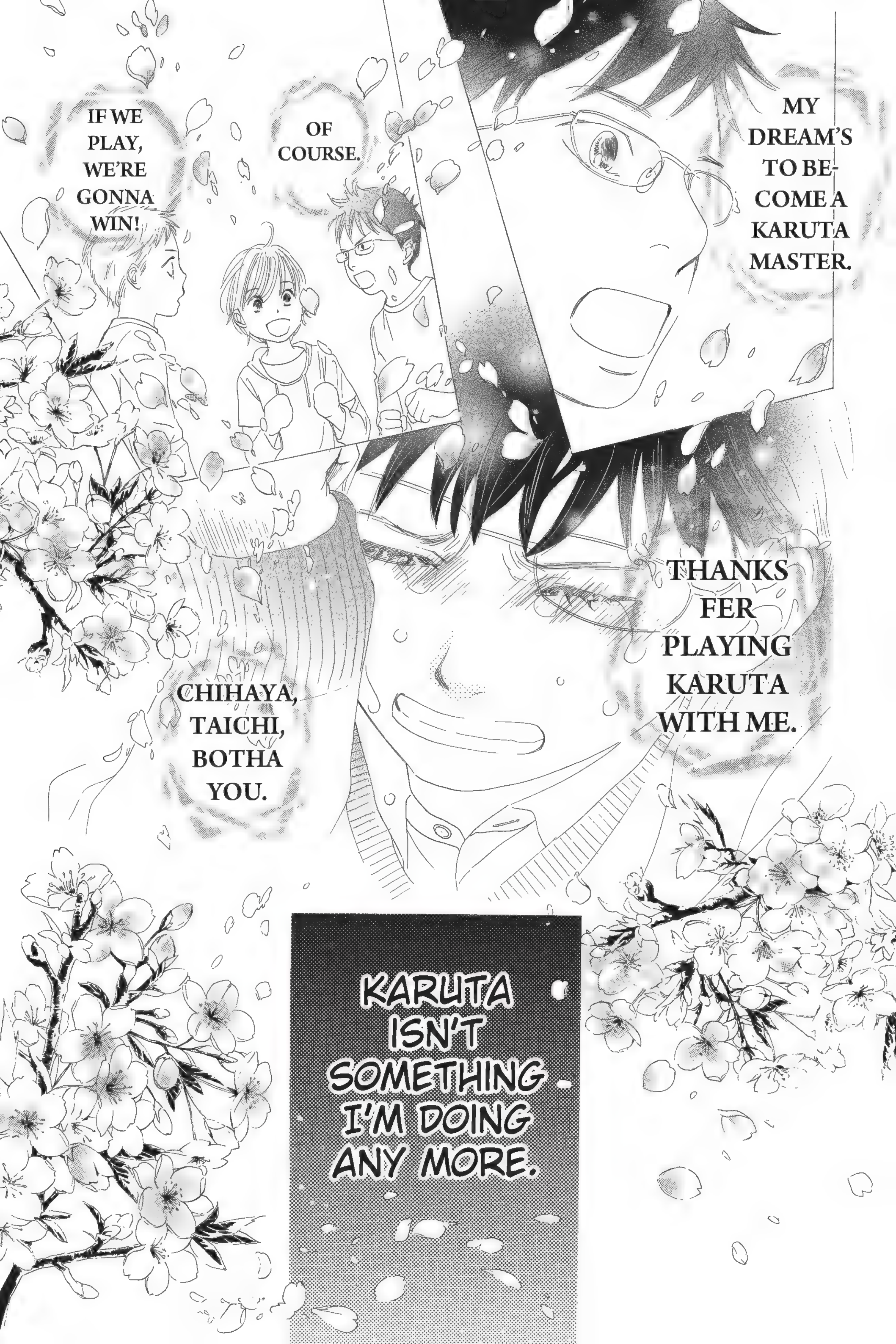

WHAT'RE YOU...
...CAN CALL ARATA, RIGHT?
I NEED TO TELL HIM I MADE CLASS A!
TAP TAP
I...
STAY HERE, TAICHI.
OKAY.
HUH?
HUNH?!
Where'd that come from?!
BEEP ピッ
BEEP ピッ
BEEP ピッ

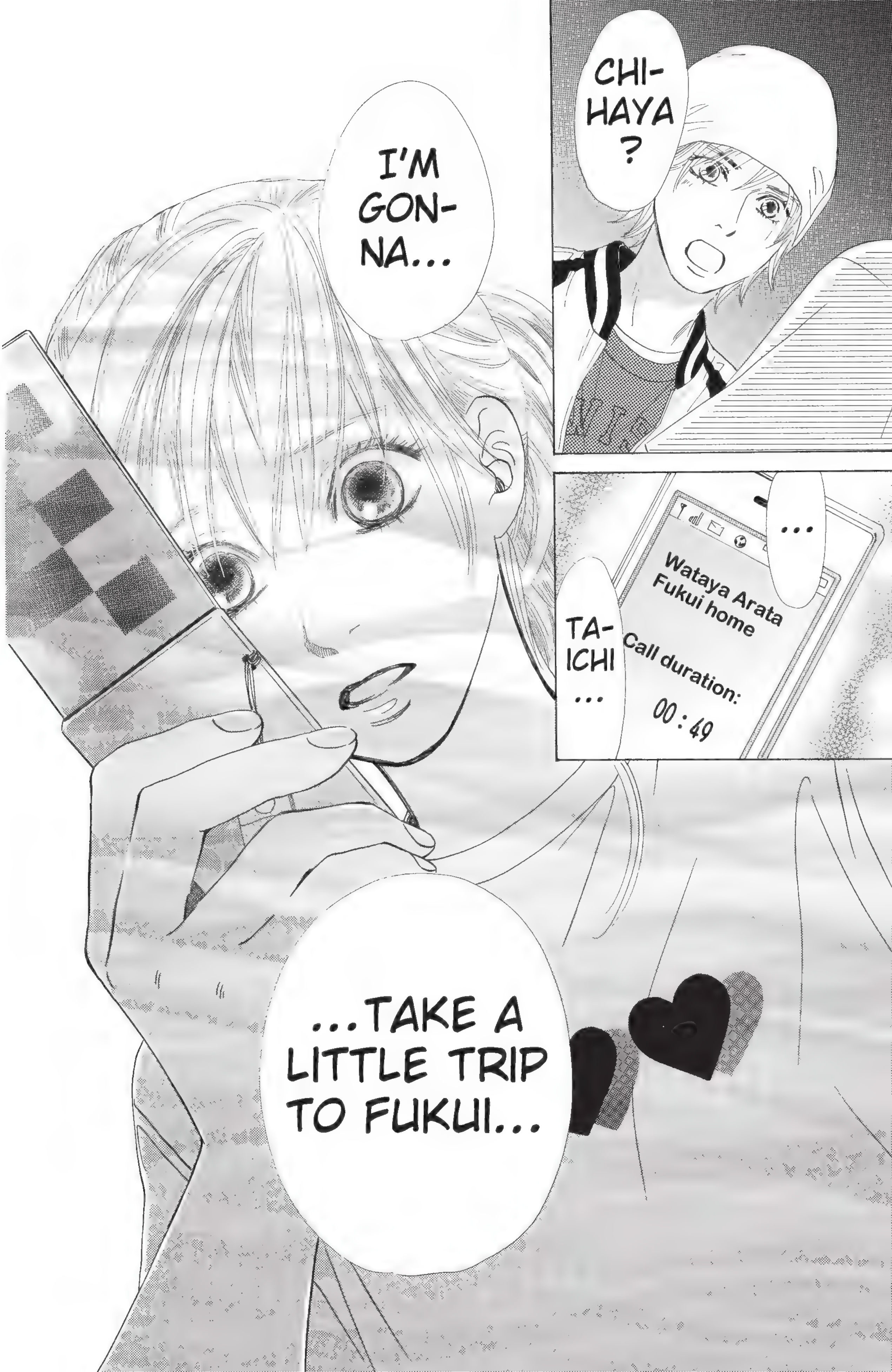

ふー
SIGH
プルルルル
PRRRING
ジリリリリ
BRRRING
ARATA.
HEY, ARATA.
I...
LISTEN, ARATA.
ジリリリリ
BRRRING
I...
YES, WATAYA SPEAKING.


ARATA?!
IT'S ME! CHIHAYA!
TAICHI'S HERE, TOO!
...?
I GOT PROMOTED TO CLASS A TODAY!!
I WORKED SUPER HARD TO DO IT!
I JUST BARELY BEAT SOMEONE FROM THE HARUKAWA KARUTA CLUB!
THERE'S SO MANY THINGS...
I ENDED UP IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS TAICHI.
AND HE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND WHO CALLS HIM TA-KUN!
HARADA-SENSEI IS DOING WELL, TOO!
...I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, ARATA.
ARATA!
HOW STRONG HAVE YOU GOTTEN, ARATA?
...COULDJA NOT?


SORRY, BUT I DON'T WANTCHA CALLING.
Grand Royal
JACK BOSS
KARUTA ...
ISN'T SOMETHING I'M DOING ANY MORE.

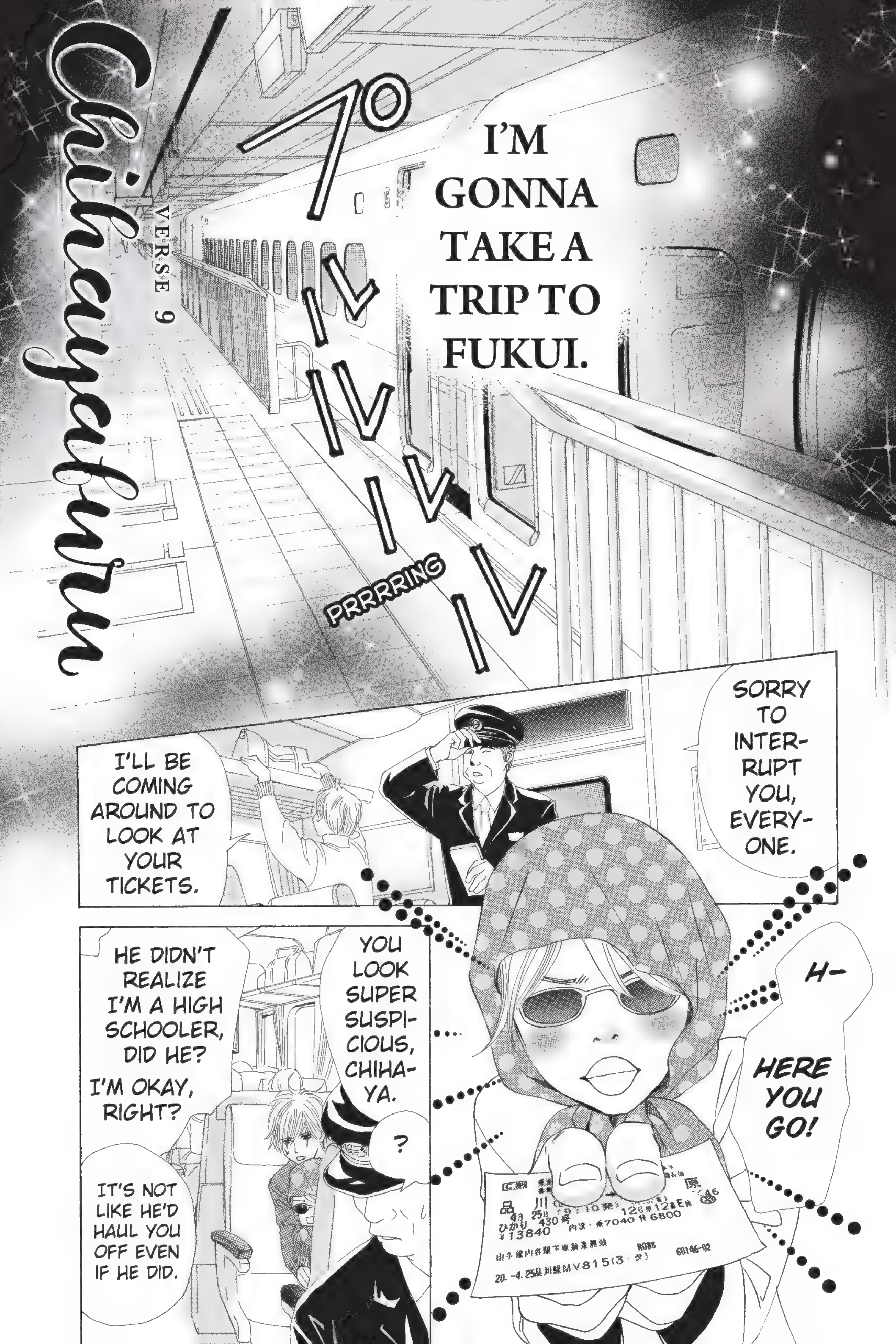

BTT
WH-
WHAT'D HE SAY,
CHI-HAYA?
Wataya Arata
Fukui home
Call duration:
00 : 49

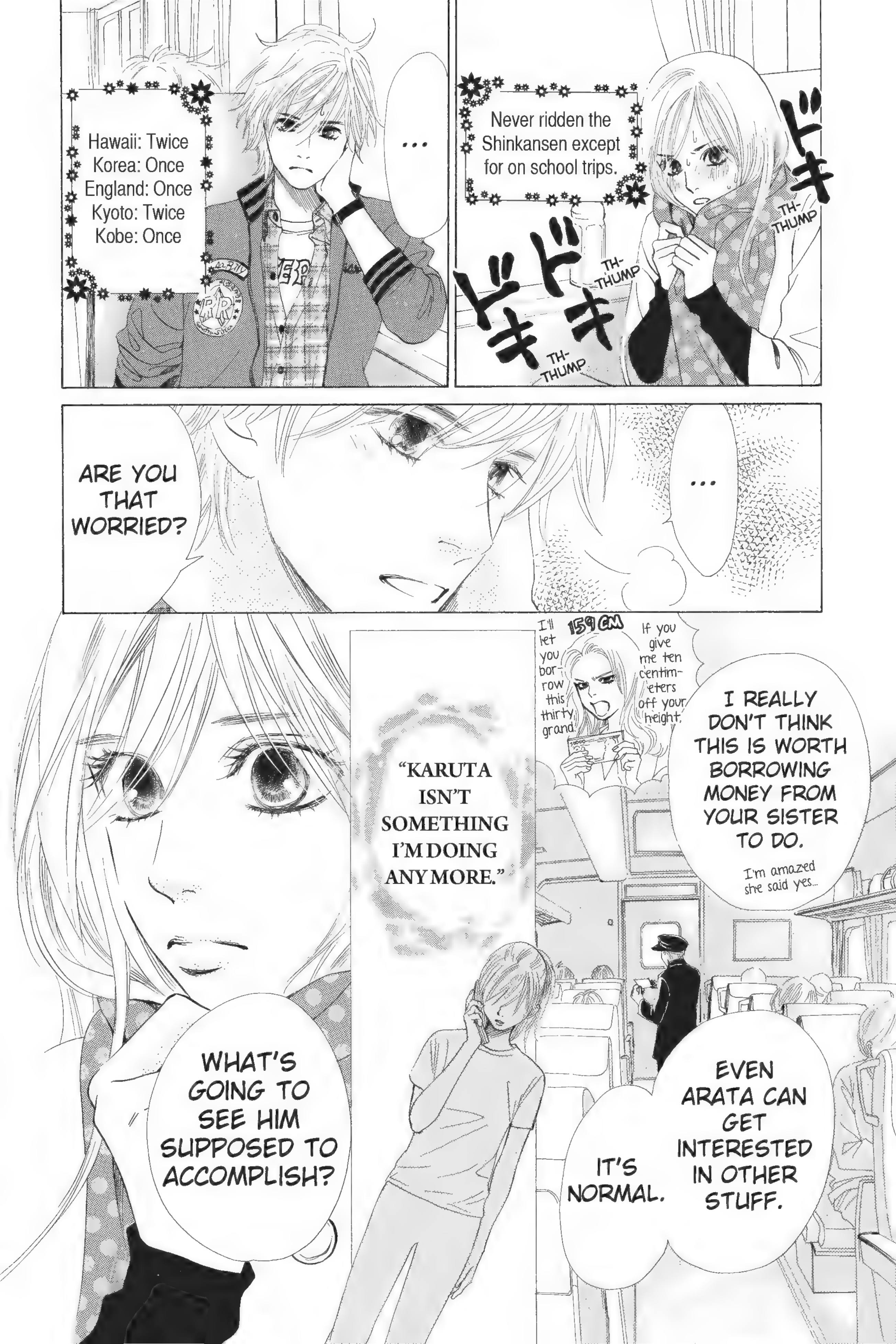

MY DREAM'S TO BECOME A KARUTA MASTER.
OF COURSE.
IF WE PLAY, WE'RE GONNA WIN!
THANKS FER PLAYING KARUTA WITH ME.
CHIHAYA, TAICHI, BOTHA YOU.
KARUTA ISN'T SOMETHING I'M DOING ANY MORE.

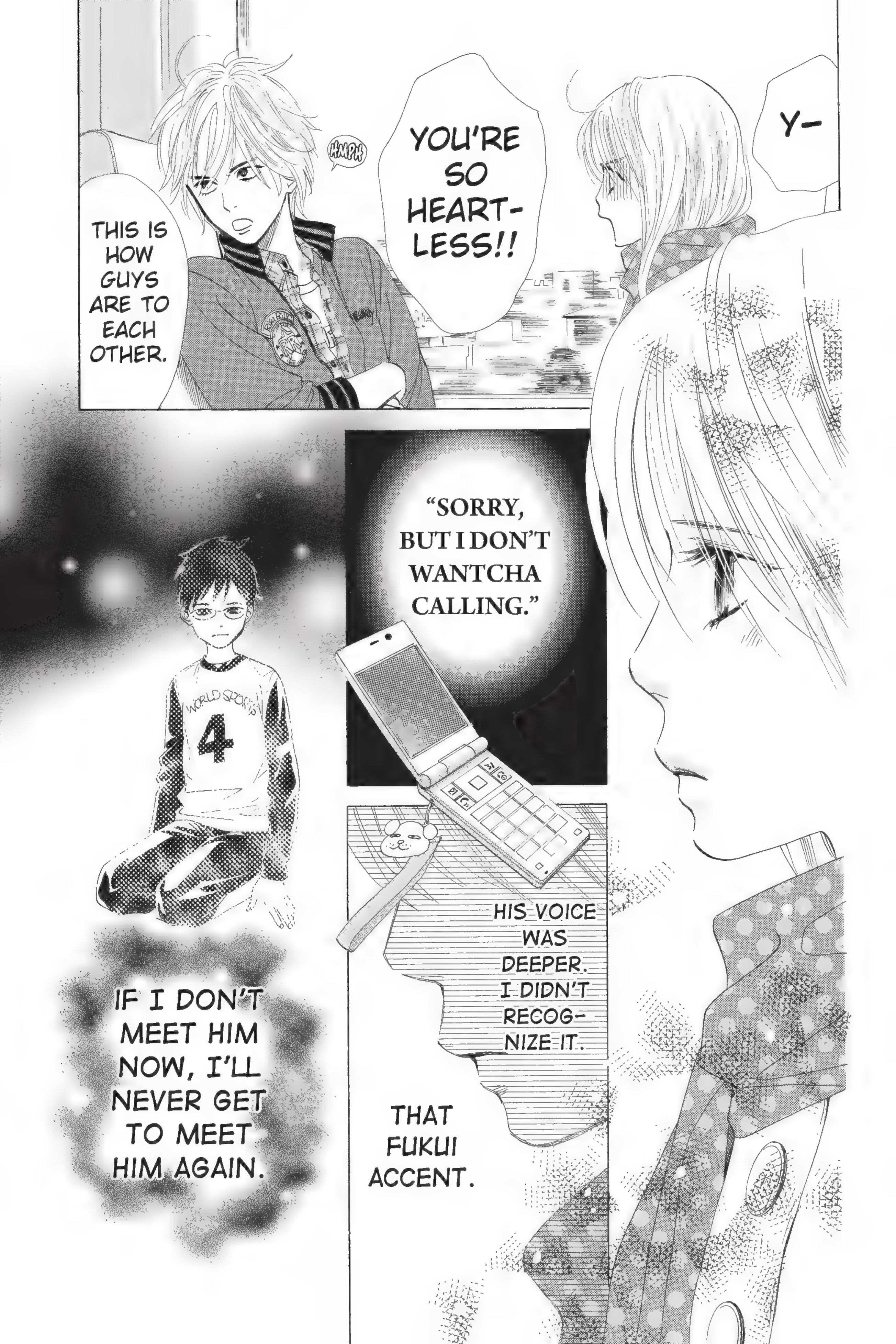

CHI-HAYA?
...
Wataya Arata
Fukui home
Call duration:
00:49
TAICHI...
I'M GONNA...
...TAKE A LITTLE TRIP TO FUKUI...

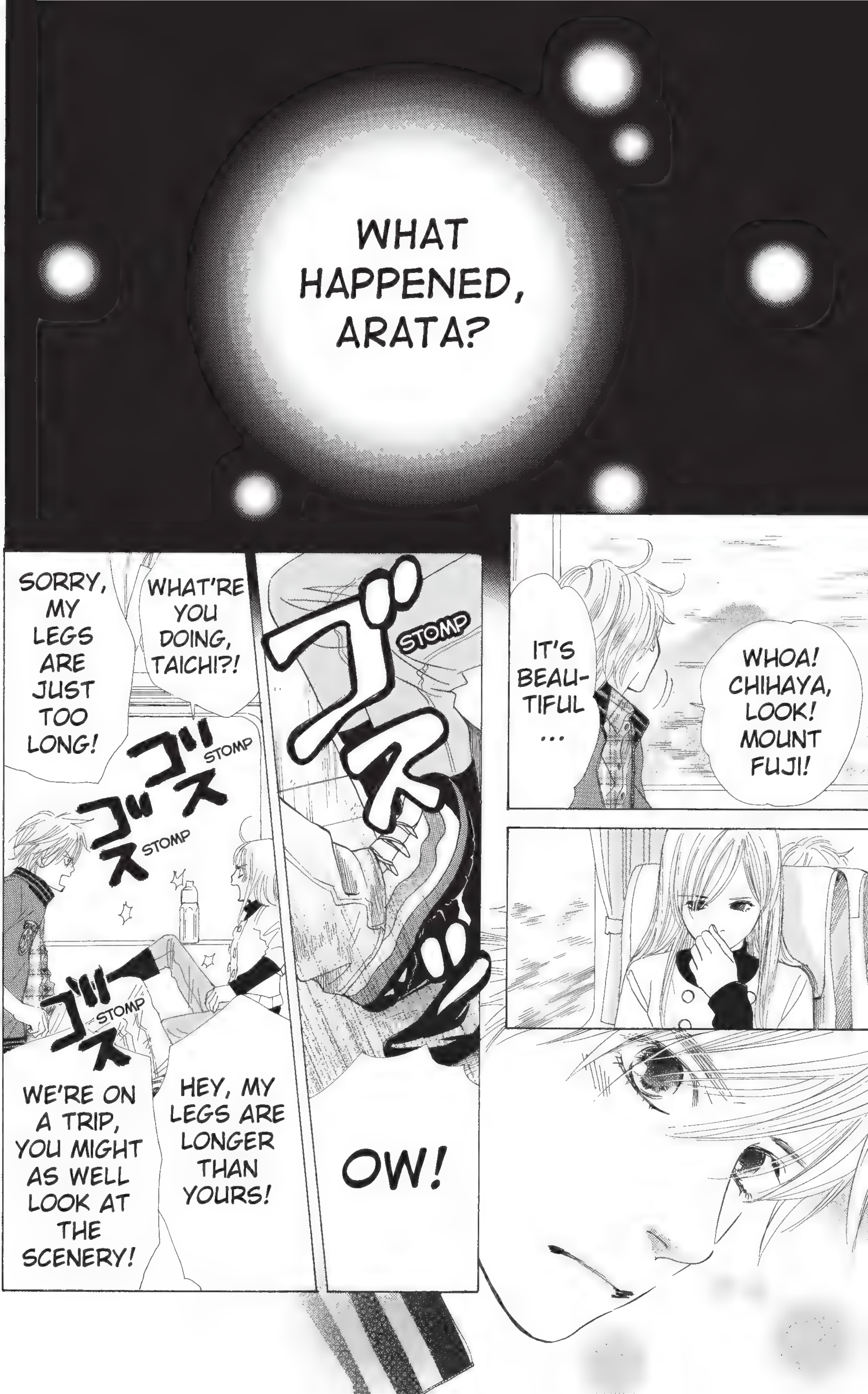
Chihayafuru

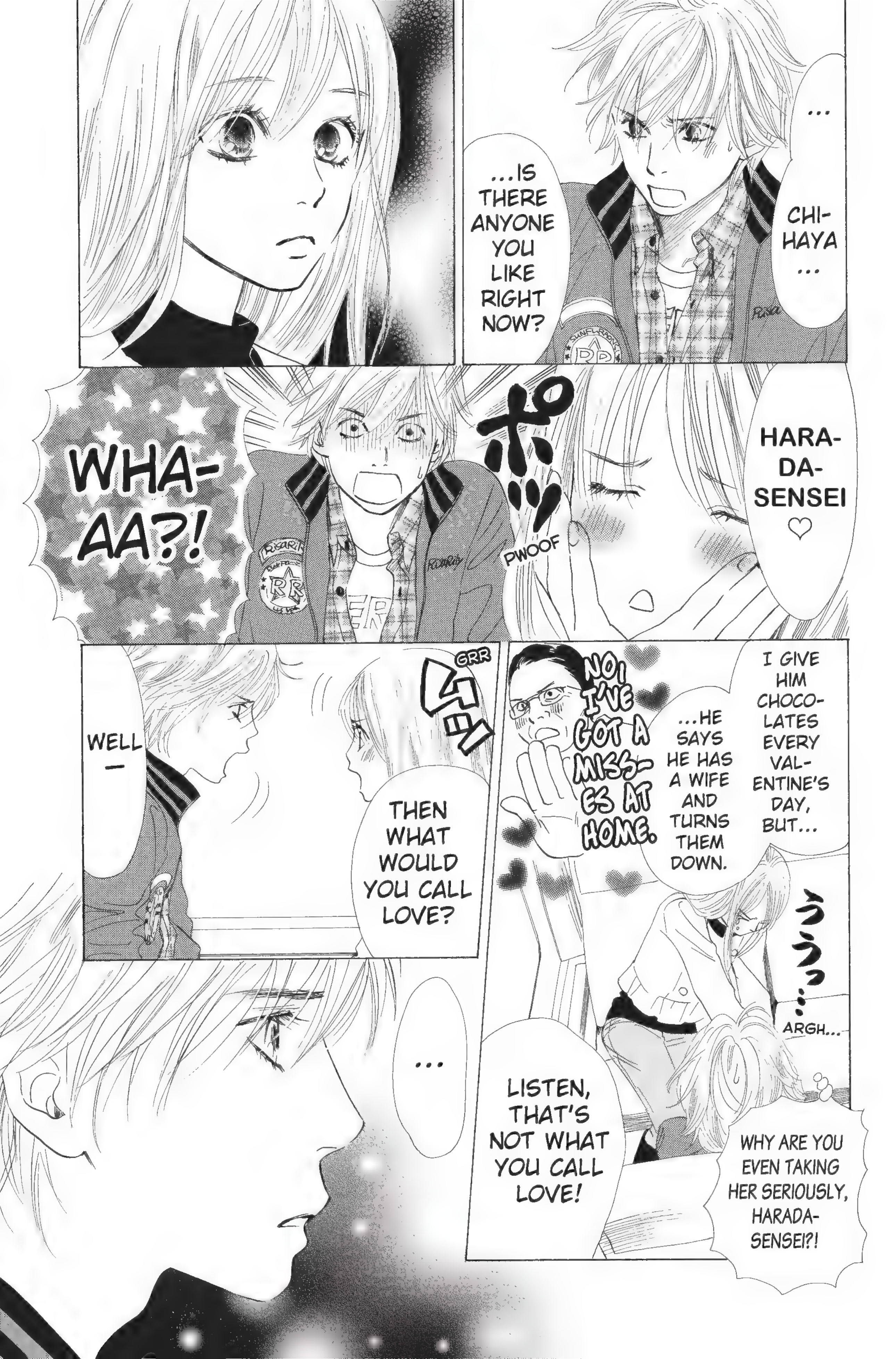
VERSE 9

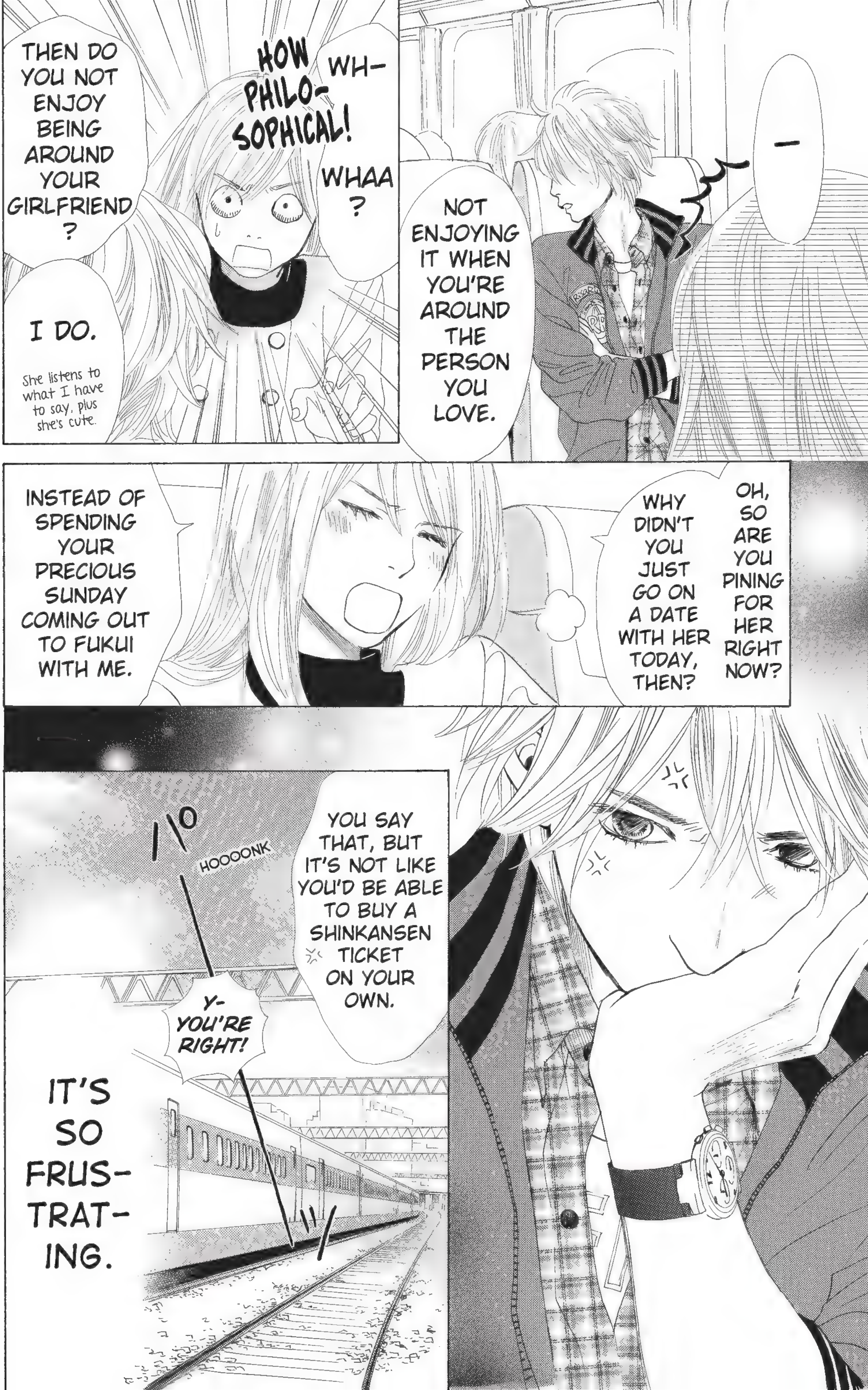

I'M GONNA TAKE A TRIP TO FUKUI.
プルルルル
PRRRRING
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, EVERYONE.
I'LL BE COMING AROUND TO LOOK AT YOUR TICKETS.
H—
HERE YOU GO!
YOU LOOK SUPER SUSPICIOUS, CHIHAYA.
?
HE DIDN'T REALIZE I'M A HIGH SCHOOLER, DID HE?
I'M OKAY, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'D HAUL YOU OFF EVEN IF HE DID.

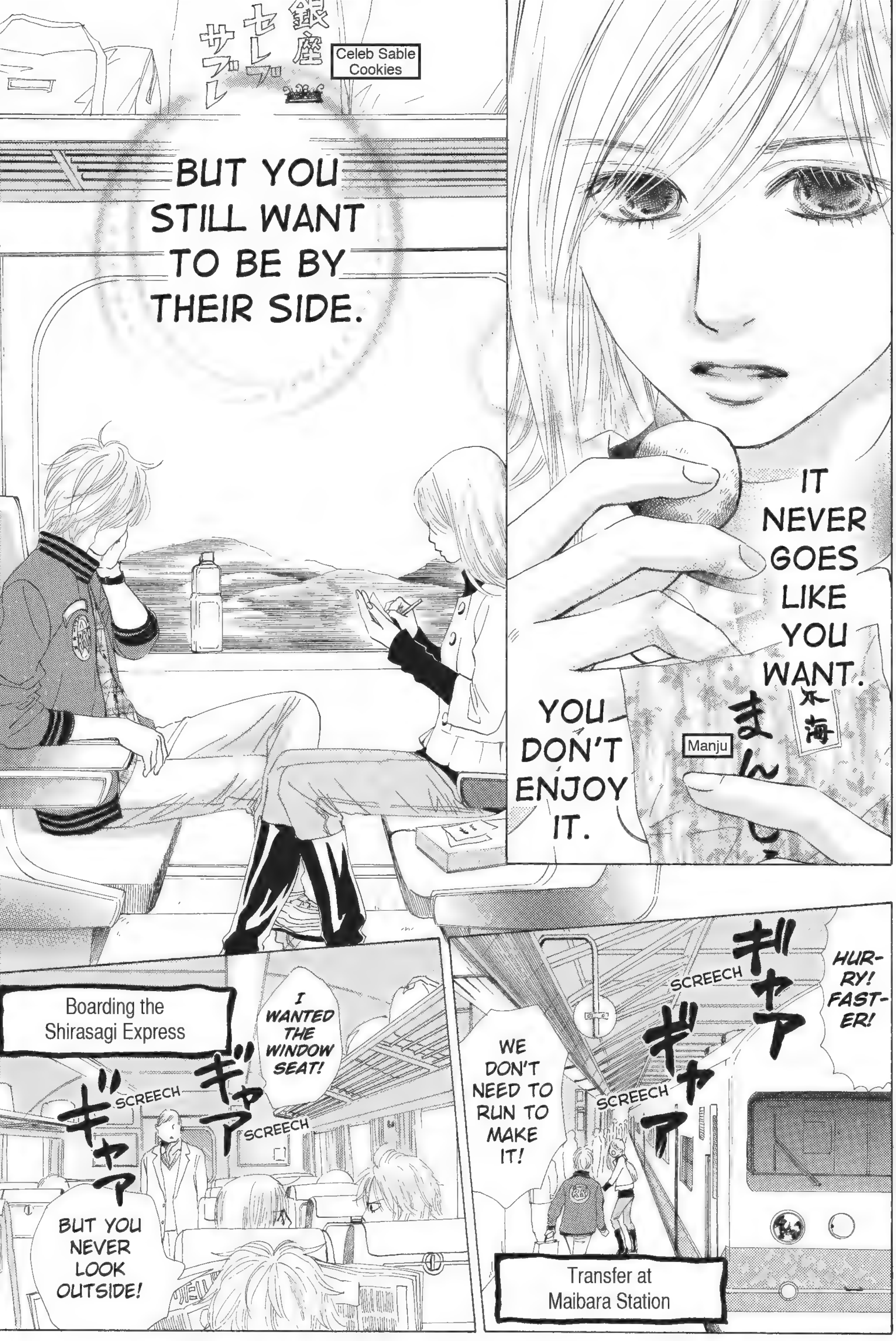

Never ridden the Shinkansen except for on school trips.
ドキ
TH-THUMP
ドキ
TH-THUMP
ドキ
TH-THUMP
…
Hawaii: Twice
Korea: Once
England: Once
Kyoto: Twice
Kobe: Once
…
ARE YOU THAT WORRIED?
159 CM
If you give me ten centimeters off your height.
I'll let you borrow this thirty grand.
I REALLY DON'T THINK THIS IS WORTH BORROWING MONEY FROM YOUR SISTER TO DO.
I'm amazed she said yes...
EVEN ARATA CAN GET INTERESTED IN OTHER STUFF.
IT'S NORMAL.
"KARUTA ISN'T SOMETHING I'M DOING ANYMORE."
WHAT'S GOING TO SEE HIM SUPPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH?

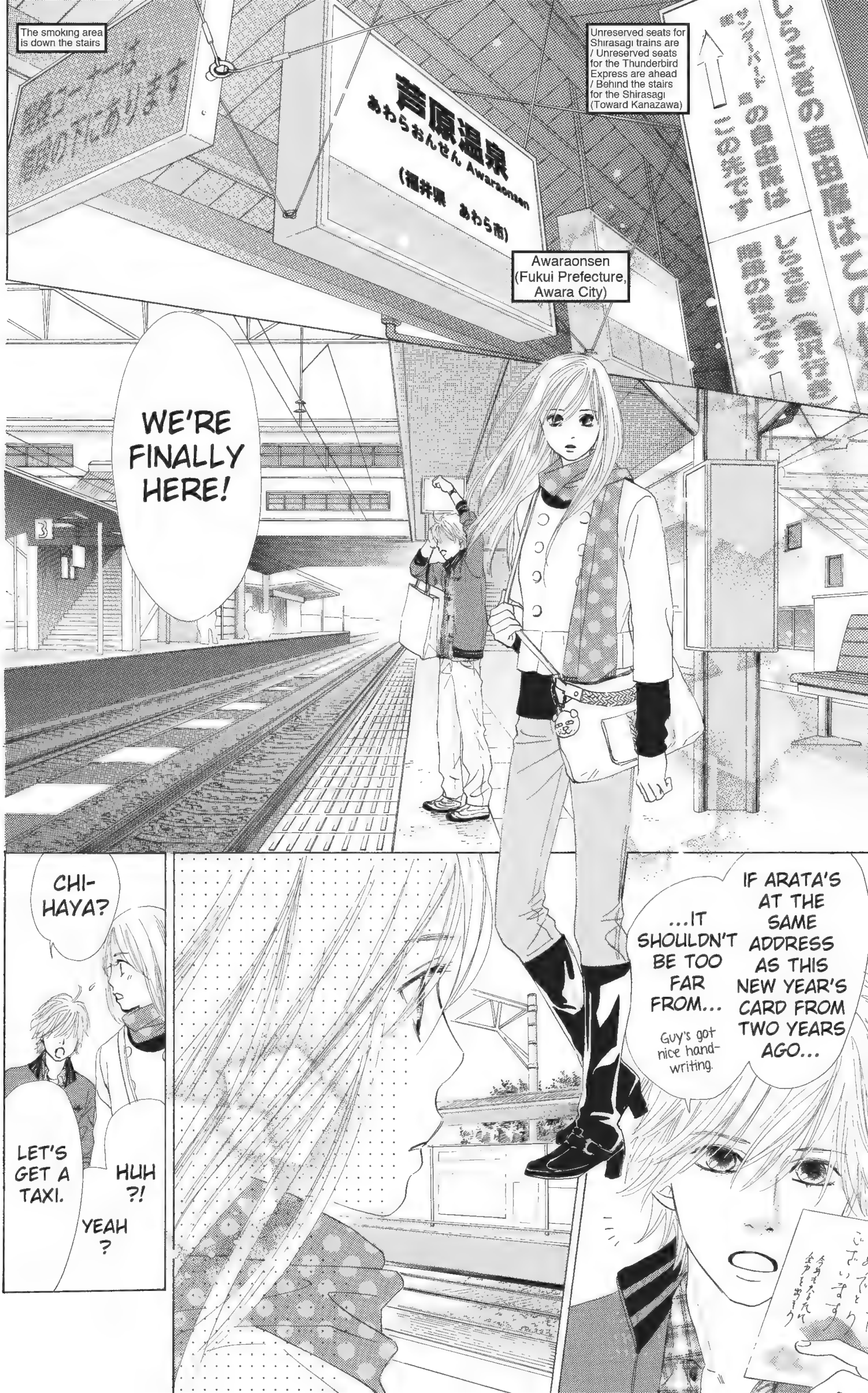

Y–
YOU'RE SO HEARTLESS!!
HMPH
THIS IS HOW GUYS ARE TO EACH OTHER.
"SORRY, BUT I DON'T WANTCHA CALLING."
HIS VOICE WAS DEEPER. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT.
THAT FUKUI ACCENT.
IF I DON'T MEET HIM NOW, I'LL NEVER GET TO MEET HIM AGAIN.
WORLD SPORTS
4

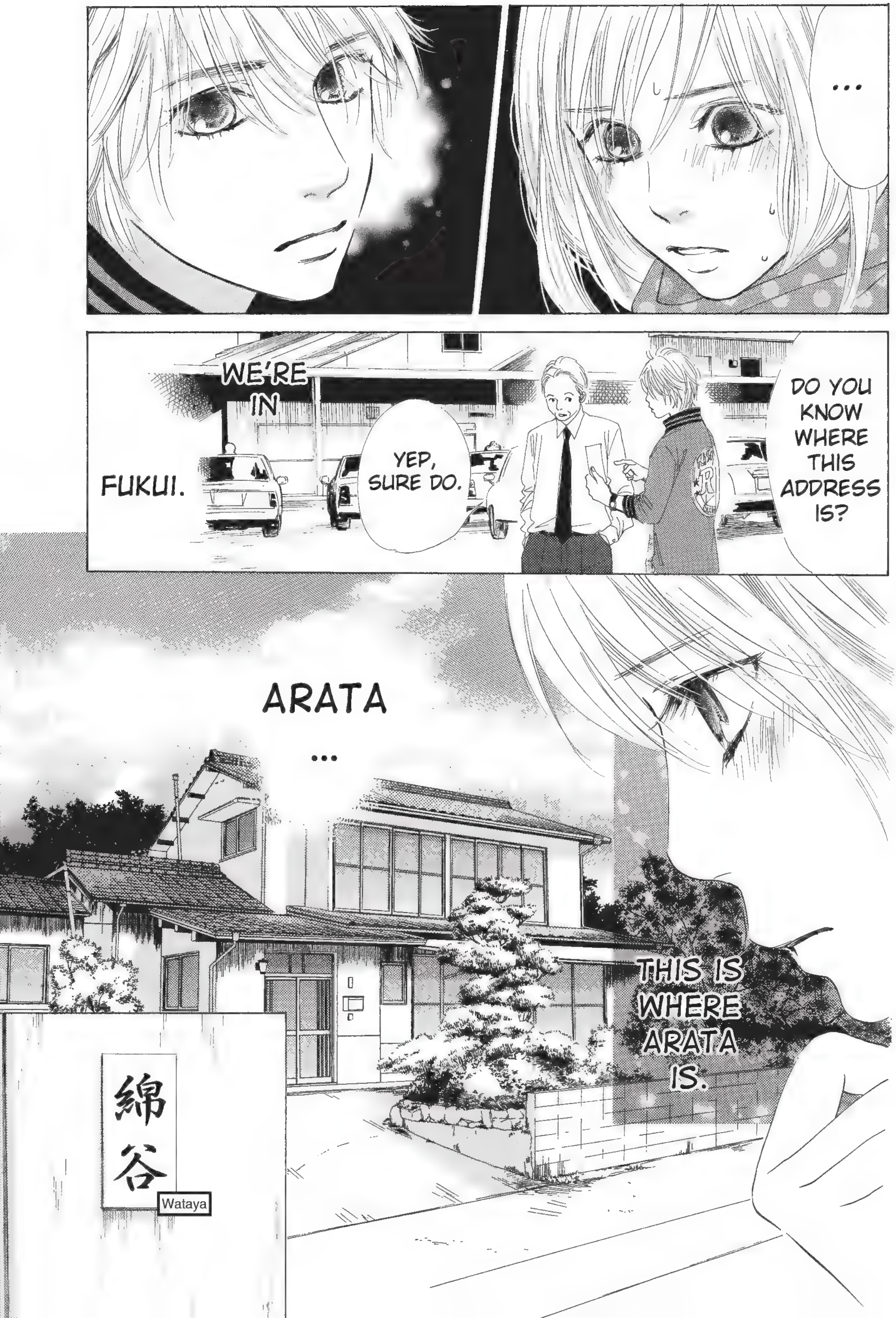

WHAT HAPPENED, ARATA?
WHOA! CHIHAYA, LOOK! MOUNT FUJI!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
ゴス STOMP
OW!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, TAICHI?!
SORRY, MY LEGS ARE JUST TOO LONG!
ゴス STOMP
ゴッス STOMP
ゴッス STOMP
HEY, MY LEGS ARE LONGER THAN YOURS!
WE'RE ON A TRIP, YOU MIGHT AS WELL LOOK AT THE SCENERY!

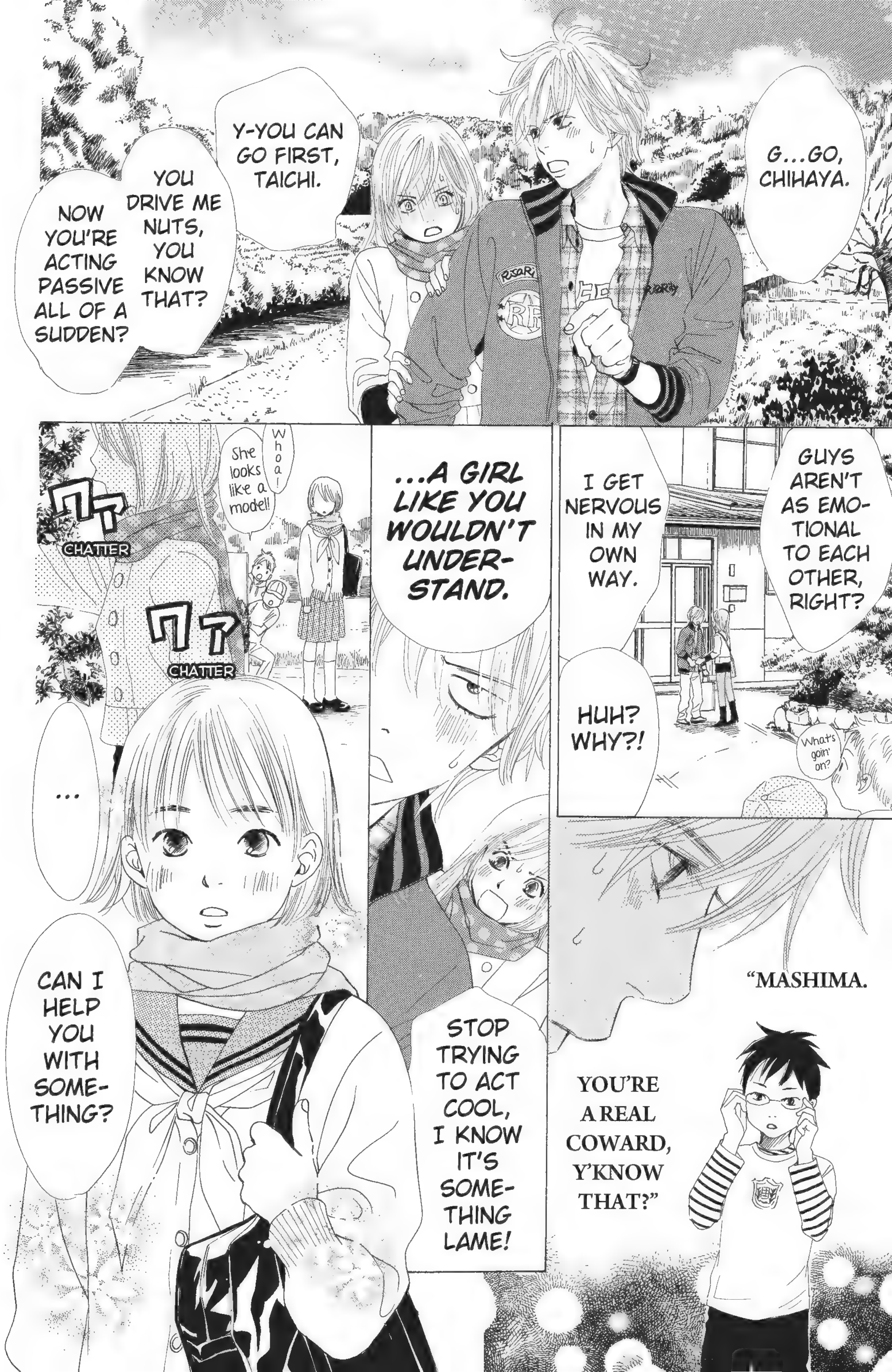

...
CHIHAYA...
...IS THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE RIGHT NOW?
HARADA-SENSEI ♡
ポッ
PWOOF
WHAAA?!
I GIVE HIM CHOCOLATES EVERY VALENTINE'S DAY, BUT...
...HE SAYS HE HAS A WIFE AND TURNS THEM DOWN.
NO! I'VE GOT A MISSES AT HOME.
ううっ...
ARGH...
LISTEN, THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU CALL LOVE!
WHY ARE YOU EVEN TAKING HER SERIOUSLY, HARADA-SENSEI?!
ムッ
GRR
THEN WHAT WOULD YOU CALL LOVE?
WELL —
...

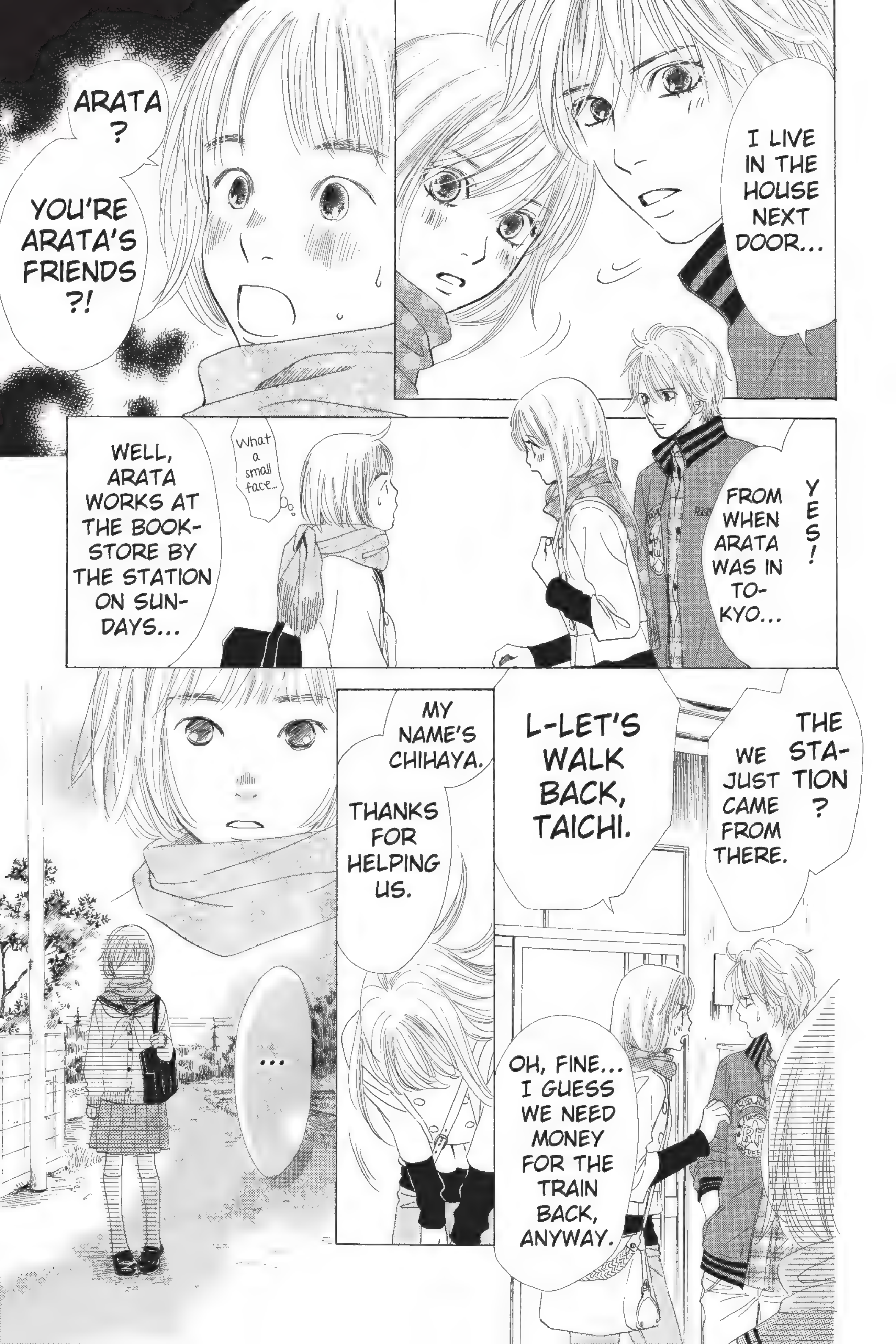

—
NOT ENJOYING IT WHEN YOU'RE AROUND THE PERSON YOU LOVE.
THEN DO YOU NOT ENJOY BEING AROUND YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
I DO.
She listens to what I have to say, plus she's cute.
WH-
WHAA?
HOW PHILOSOPHICAL!
OH, SO ARE YOU PINING FOR HER RIGHT NOW?
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO ON A DATE WITH HER TODAY, THEN?
INSTEAD OF SPENDING YOUR PRECIOUS SUNDAY COMING OUT TO FUKUI WITH ME.
—
YOU SAY THAT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D BE ABLE TO BUY A SHINKANSEN TICKET ON YOUR OWN.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!
HOOOONK
IT'S SO FRUS-TRAT-ING.

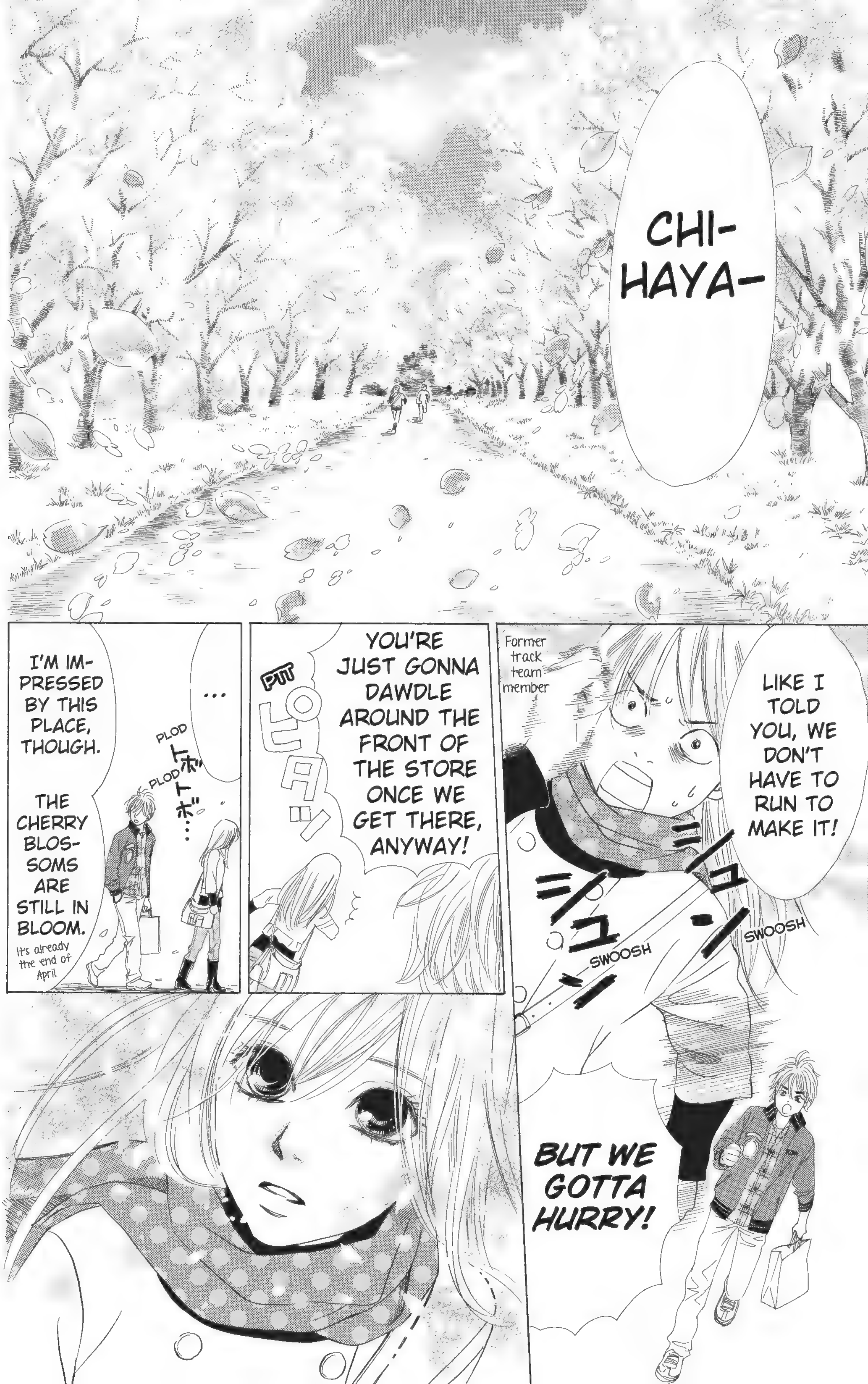
IT NEVER GOES LIKE YOU WANT.
YOU DON'T ENJOY IT.
Manju
まん
銀座セレブサブレ
Celeb Sable Cookies
BUT YOU STILL WANT TO BE BY THEIR SIDE.
HURRY! FASTER!
ギャア
SCREECH
ギャア
SCREECH
WE DON'T NEED TO RUN TO MAKE IT!
Transfer at Maibara Station
I WANTED THE WINDOW SEAT!
Boarding the Shirasagi Express
ギャア
SCREECH
ギャア
SCREECH
BUT YOU NEVER LOOK OUTSIDE!

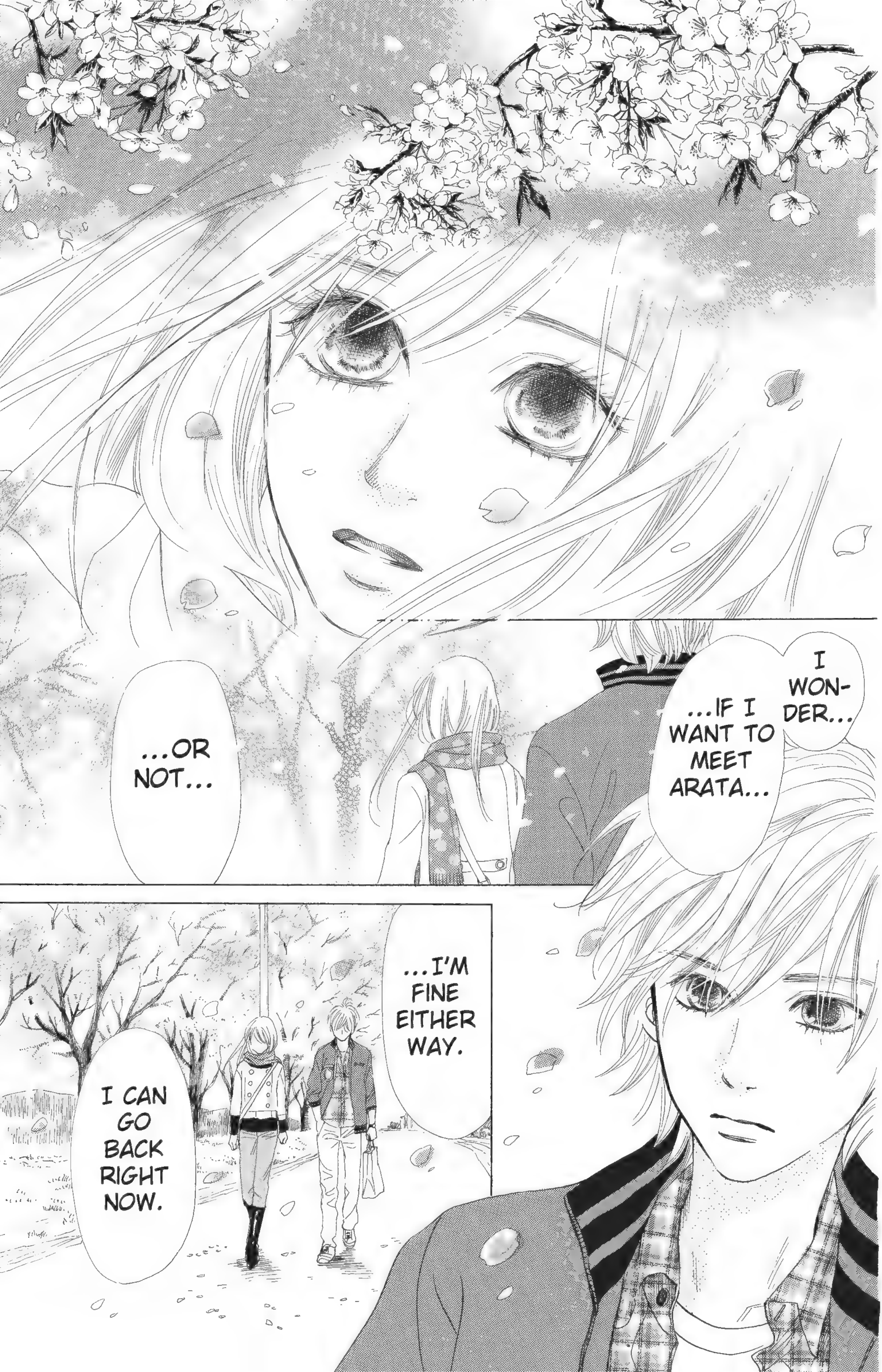

しらさぎの自由席はこの
サンダーバード号の自由席は この先です
しらさぎ（金沢行き） 階段の後ろです
Unreserved seats for Shirasagi trains are / Unreserved seats for the Thunderbird Express are ahead / Behind the stairs for the Shirasagi (Toward Kanazawa)
芦原温泉 あわらおんせん Awaraonsen （福井県 あわら市）
Awaraonsen (Fukui Prefecture, Awara City)
喫煙コーナーは 階段の下にあります
The smoking area is down the stairs
WE'RE FINALLY HERE!
IF ARATA'S AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS THIS NEW YEAR'S CARD FROM TWO YEARS AGO…
…IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR FROM…
Guy's got nice hand-writing.
CHI-HAYA?
LET'S GET A TAXI.
HUH?!
YEAH?

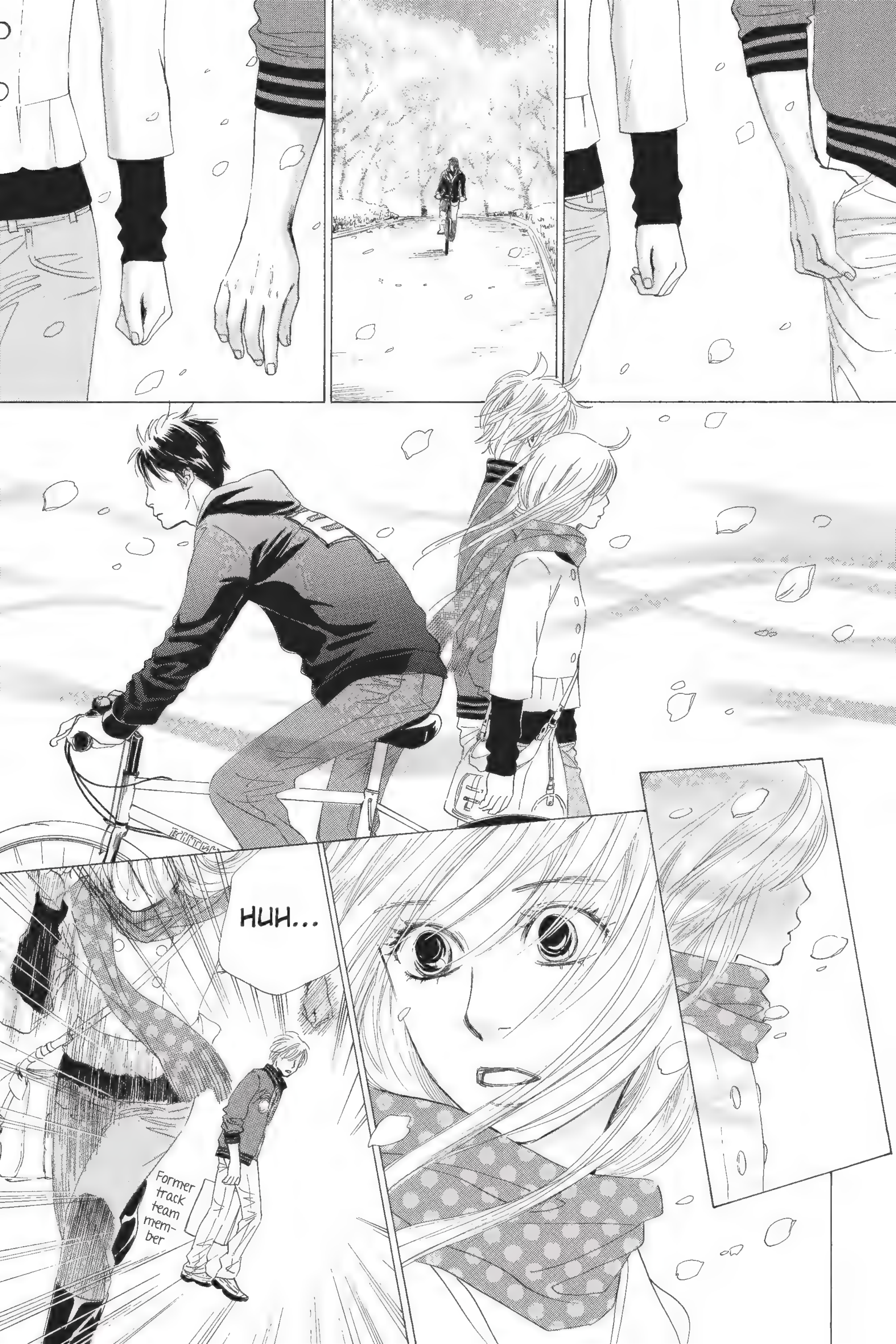

...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS ADDRESS IS?
YEP, SURE DO.
WE'RE IN FUKUI.
ARATA ...
THIS IS WHERE ARATA IS.
綿谷
Wataya

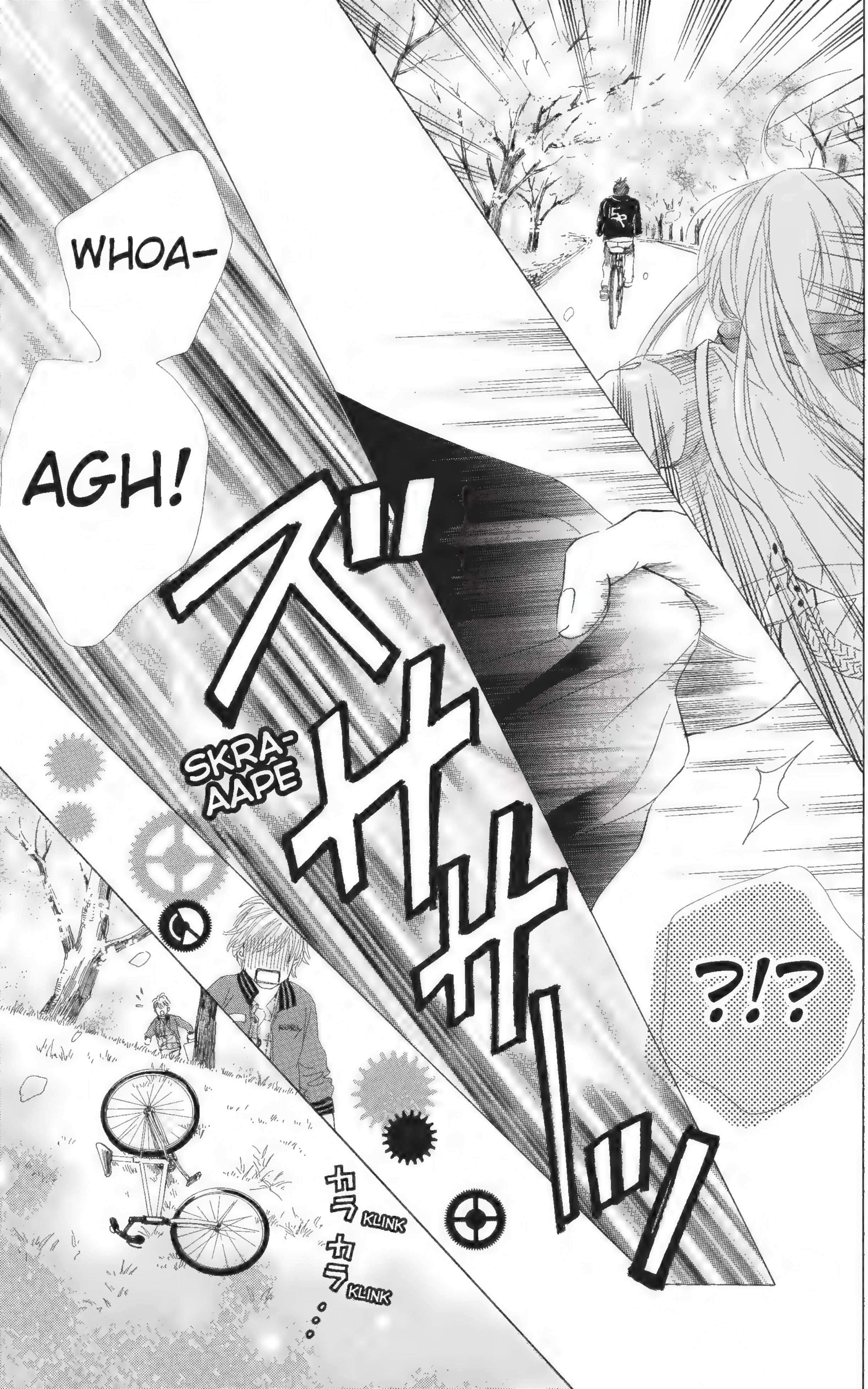

G…GO, CHIHAYA.
Y-YOU CAN GO FIRST, TAICHI.
YOU DRIVE ME NUTS, YOU KNOW THAT?
NOW YOU'RE ACTING PASSIVE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
GUYS AREN'T AS EMOTIONAL TO EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
I GET NERVOUS IN MY OWN WAY.
HUH? WHY?!
What's goin' on?
…A GIRL LIKE YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
STOP TRYING TO ACT COOL, I KNOW IT'S SOMETHING LAME!
"MASHIMA.
YOU'RE A REAL COWARD, Y'KNOW THAT?"
Whoa!
She looks like a model!
ワア CHATTER
ワア CHATTER
…
CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING?

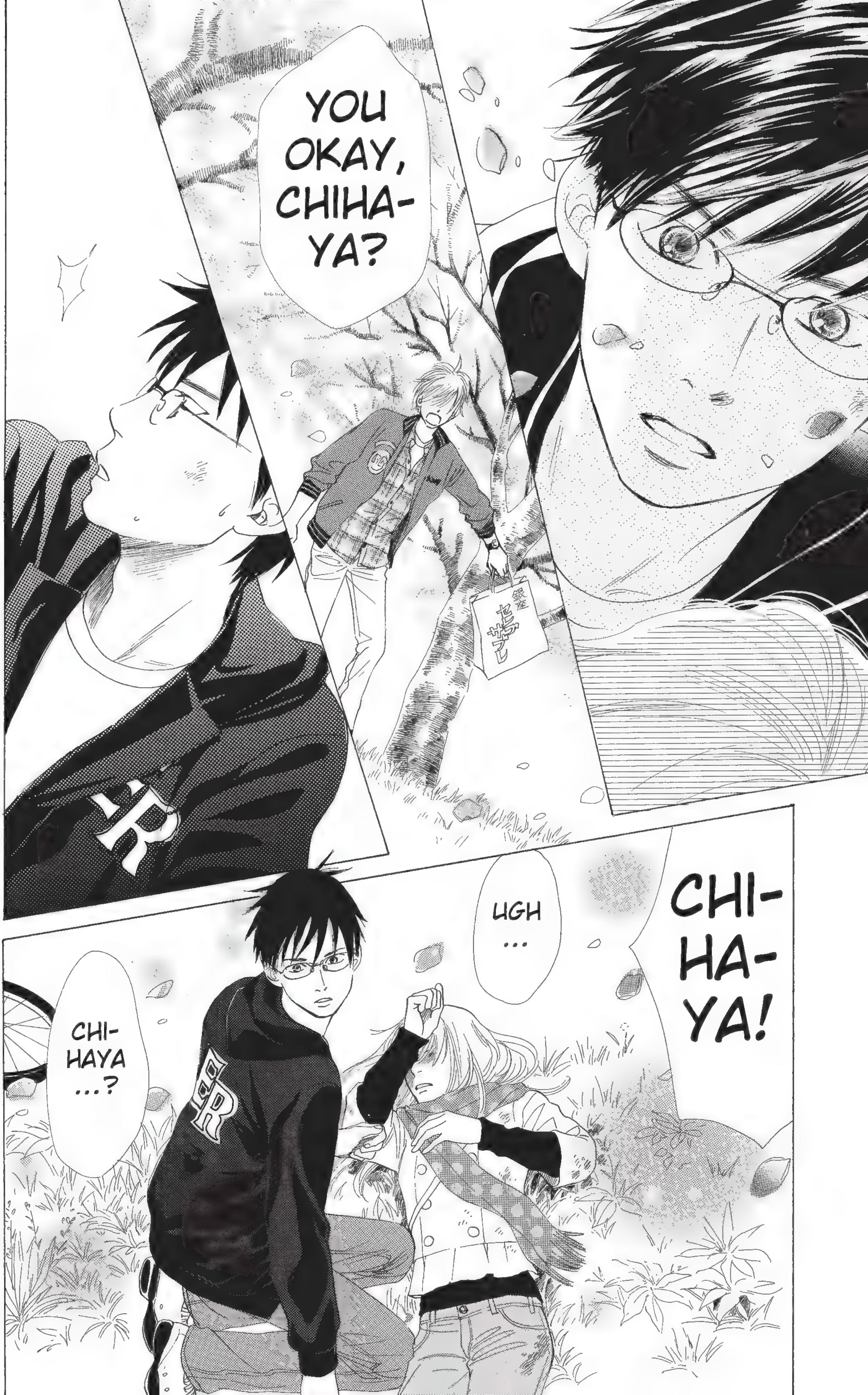

I LIVE IN THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR...
ARATA?
YOU'RE ARATA'S FRIENDS?!
YES!
FROM WHEN ARATA WAS IN TOKYO...
What a small face...
WELL, ARATA WORKS AT THE BOOKSTORE BY THE STATION ON SUNDAYS...
THE STATION?
WE JUST CAME FROM THERE.
L-LET'S WALK BACK, TAICHI.
OH, FINE... I GUESS WE NEED MONEY FOR THE TRAIN BACK, ANYWAY.
MY NAME'S CHIHAYA.
THANKS FOR HELPING US.
...

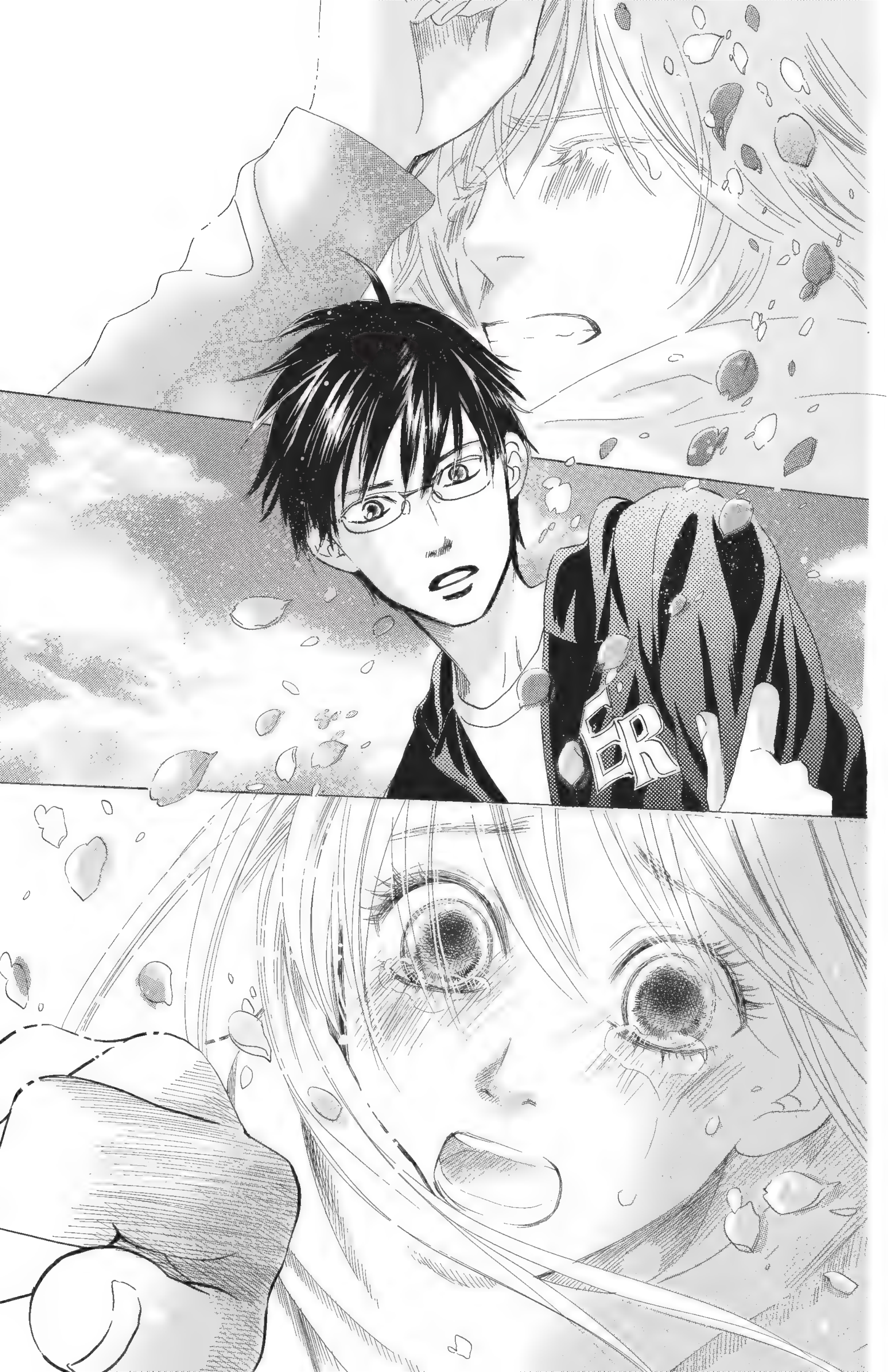

CHI-HAYA-
Former track team member
LIKE I TOLD YOU, WE DON'T HAVE TO RUN TO MAKE IT!
シュ SWOOSH
シュ SWOOSH
BUT WE GOTTA HURRY!
YOU'RE JUST GONNA DAWDLE AROUND THE FRONT OF THE STORE ONCE WE GET THERE, ANYWAY!
ピタッ PTT
...
トボトボ... PLOD PLOD
I'M IMPRESSED BY THIS PLACE, THOUGH.
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE STILL IN BLOOM.
It's already the end of April.

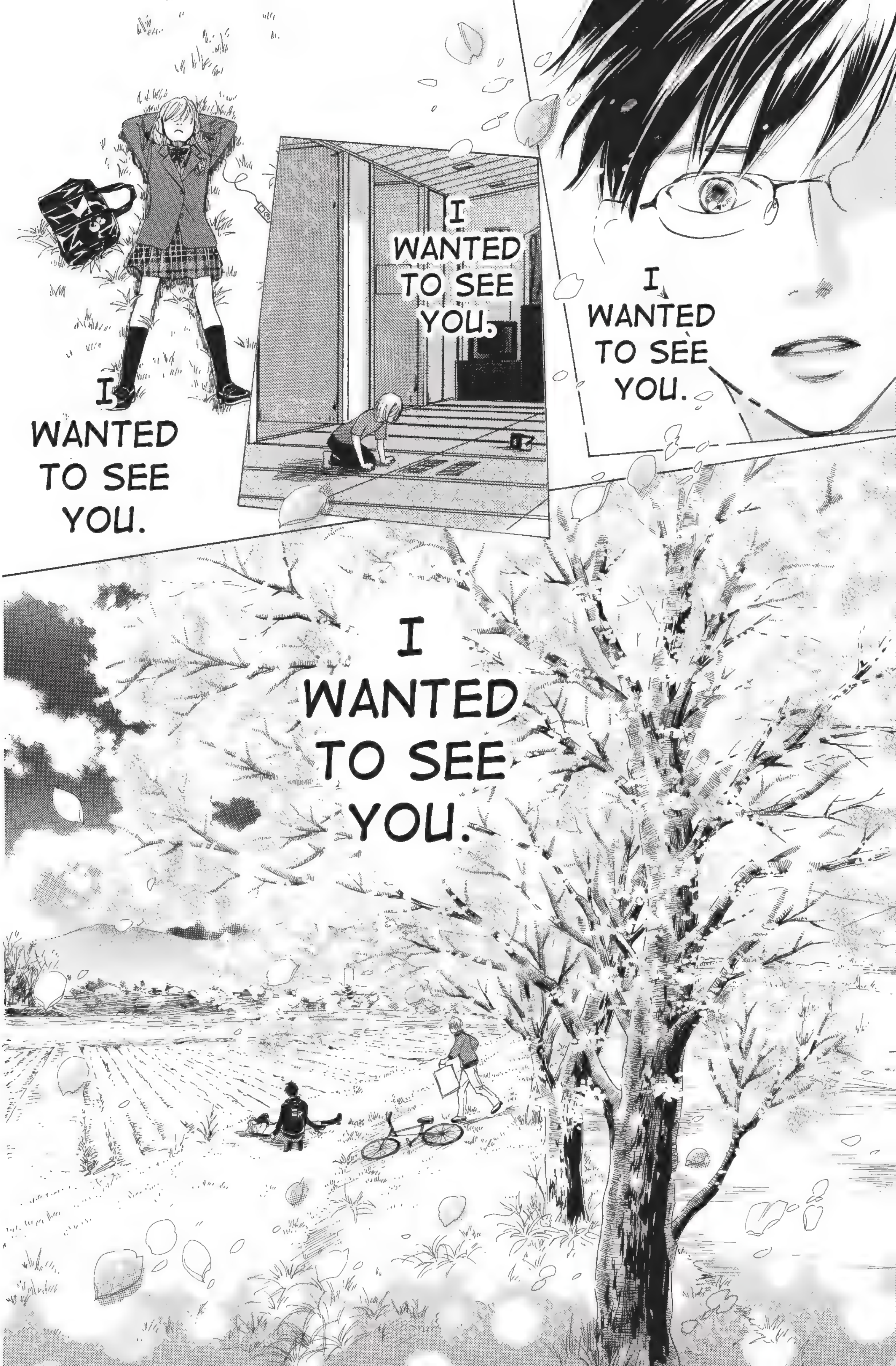

I WONDER...
...IF I WANT TO MEET ARATA...
...OR NOT...
...I'M FINE EITHER WAY.
I CAN GO BACK RIGHT NOW.

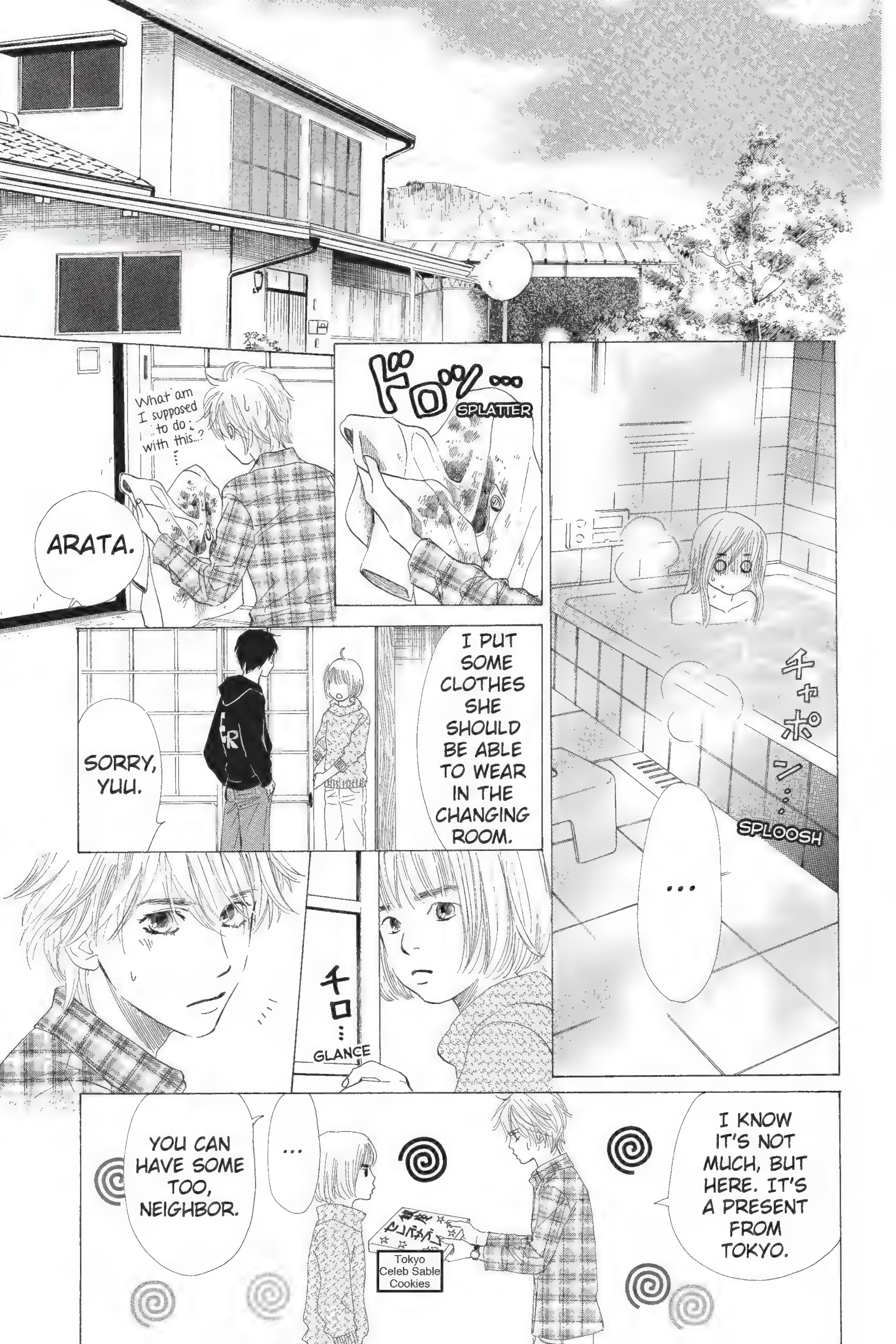

HUH...
Former track team member

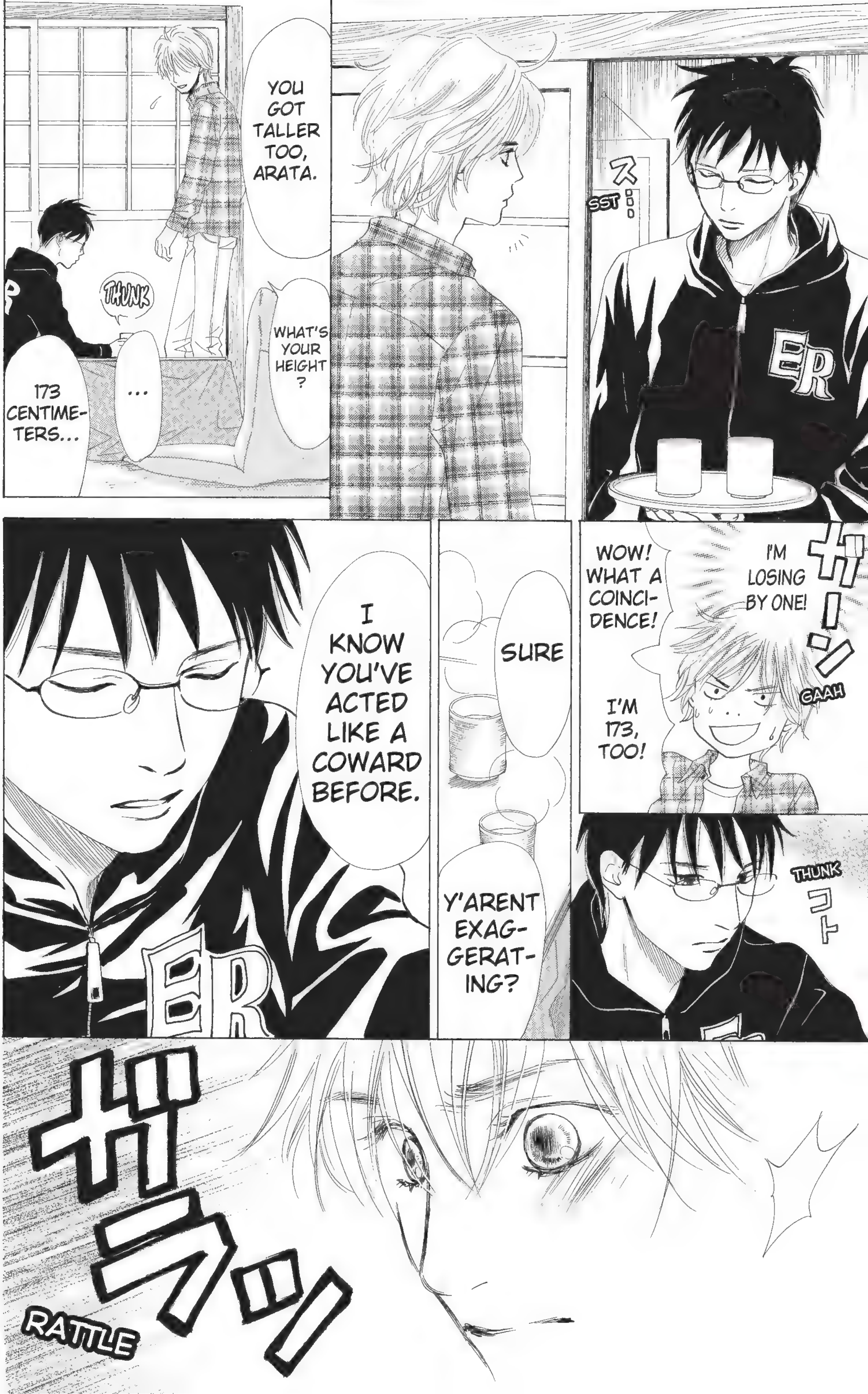

WHOA-
AGH!
ズザザザーッ
SKRA-AAPE
?!?
カラ KLINK
カラ KLINK
。。。

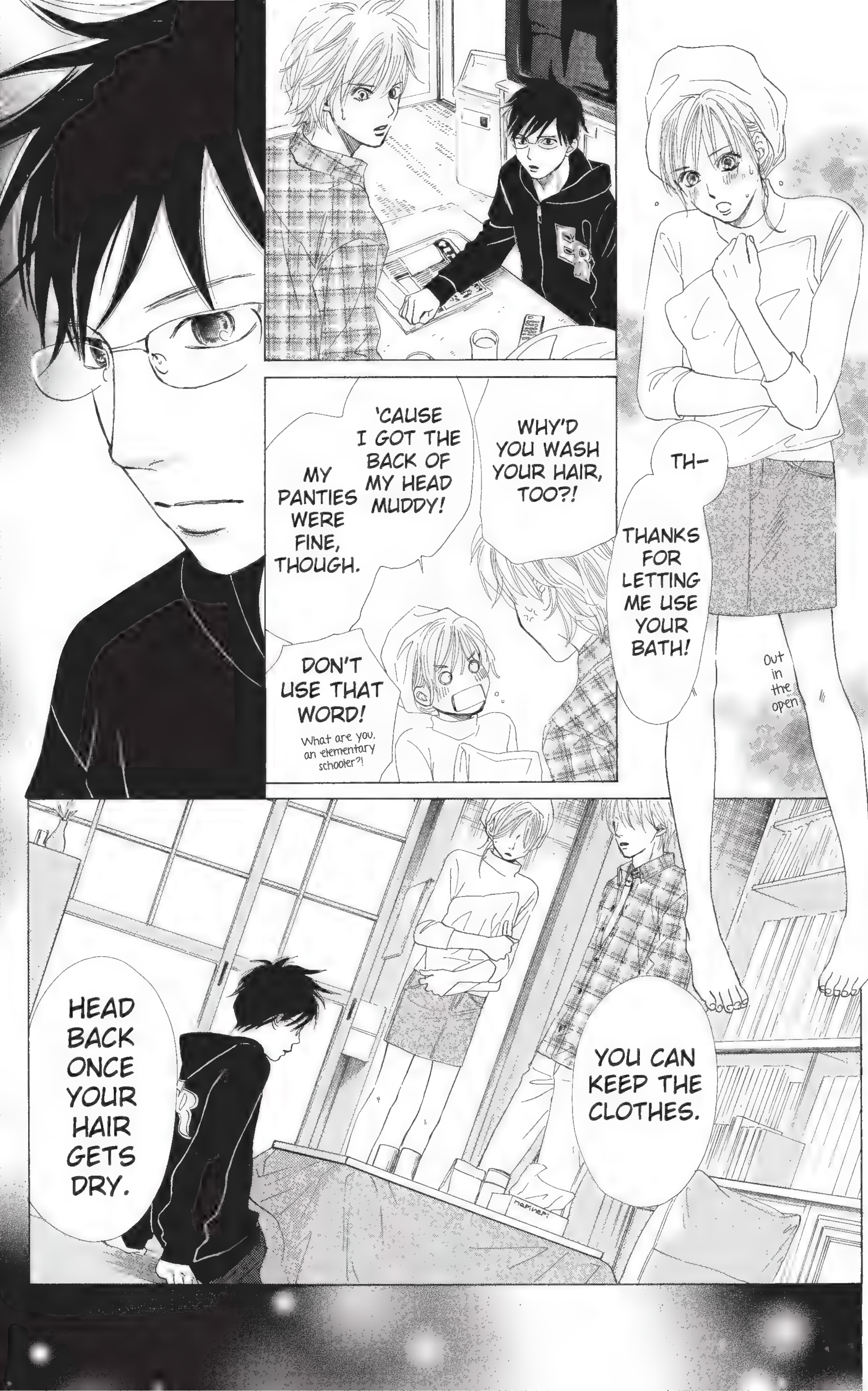

YOU OKAY, CHIHAYA?
CHIHAYA!
UGH ...
CHIHAYA ...?

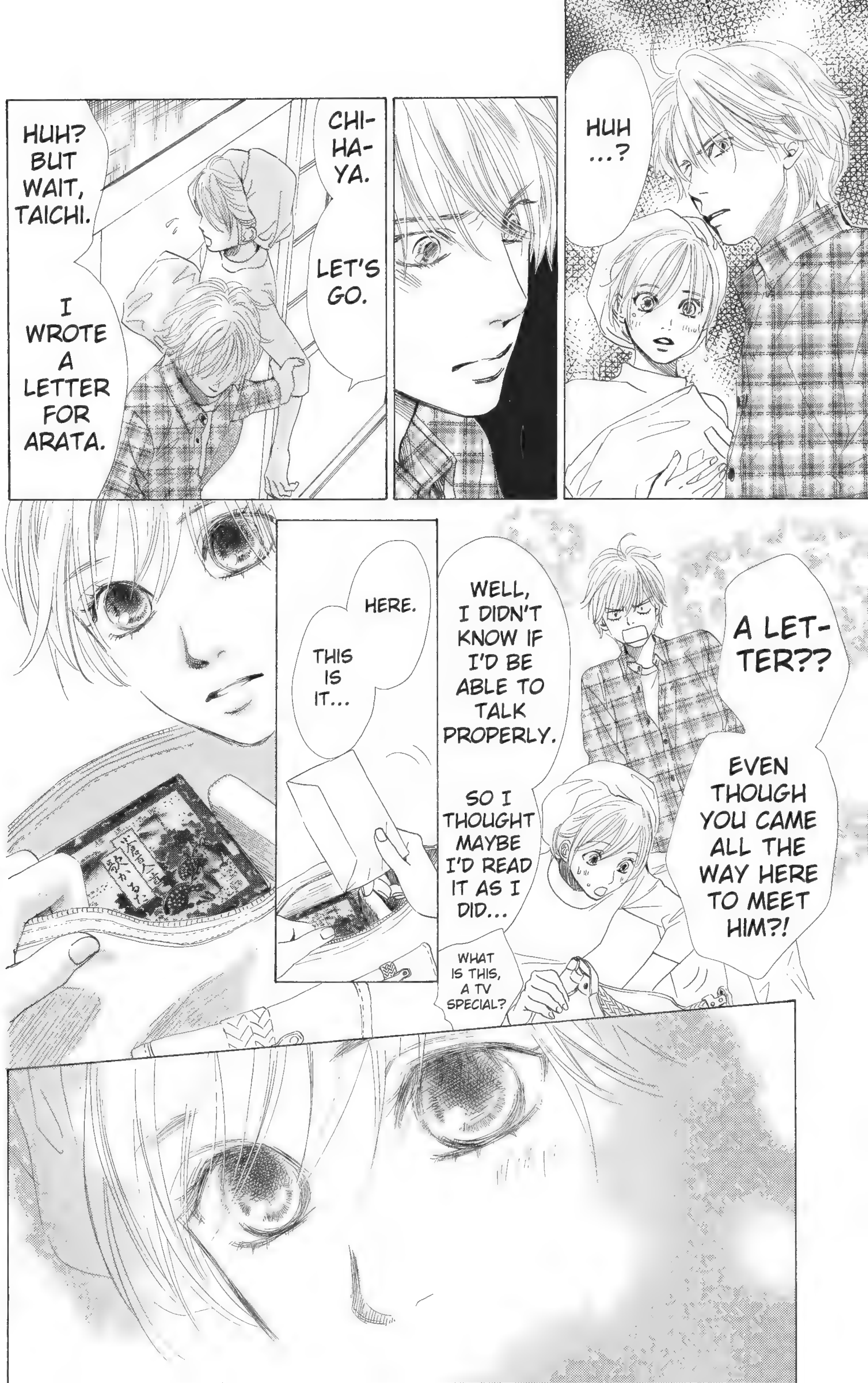

ER

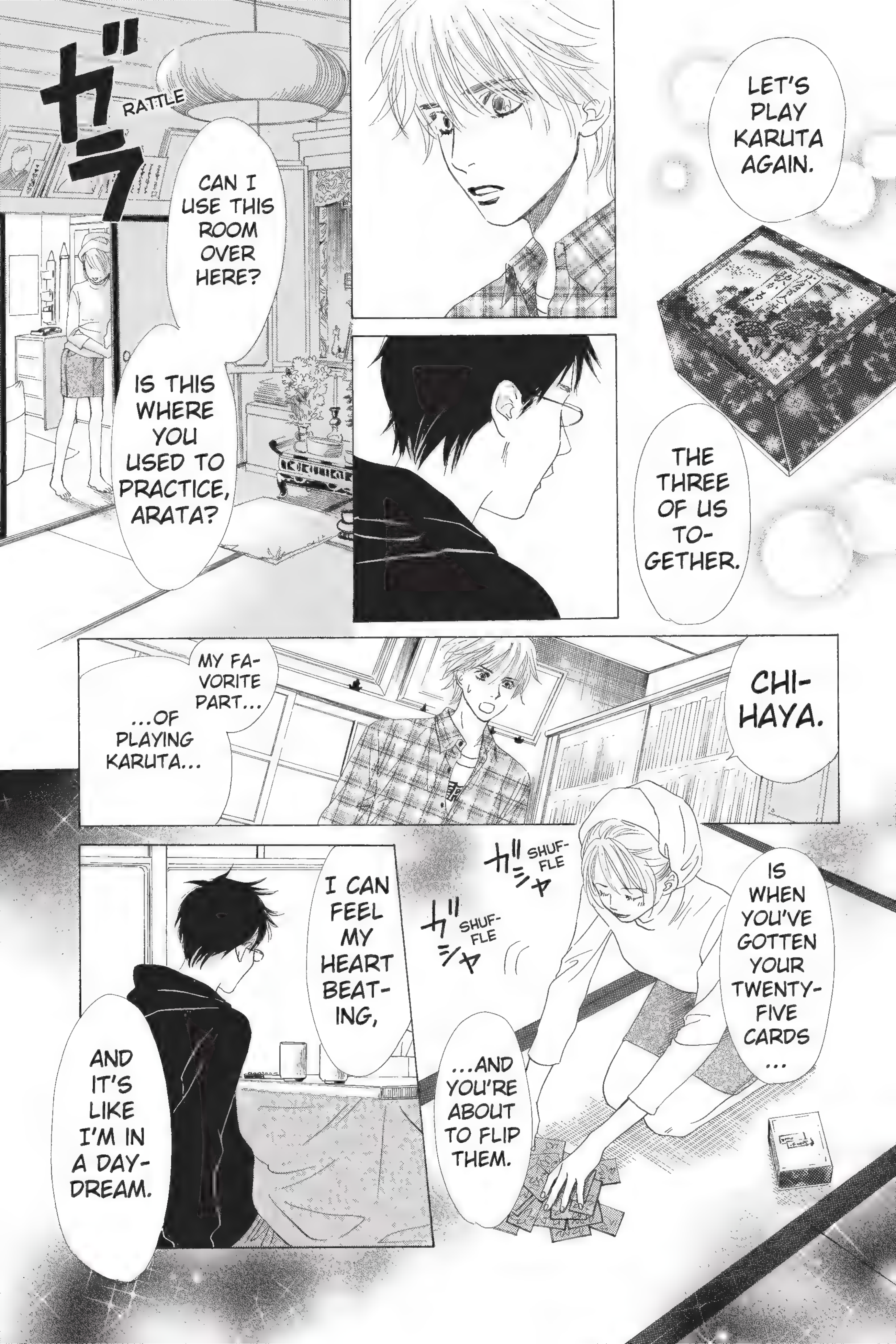

I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.

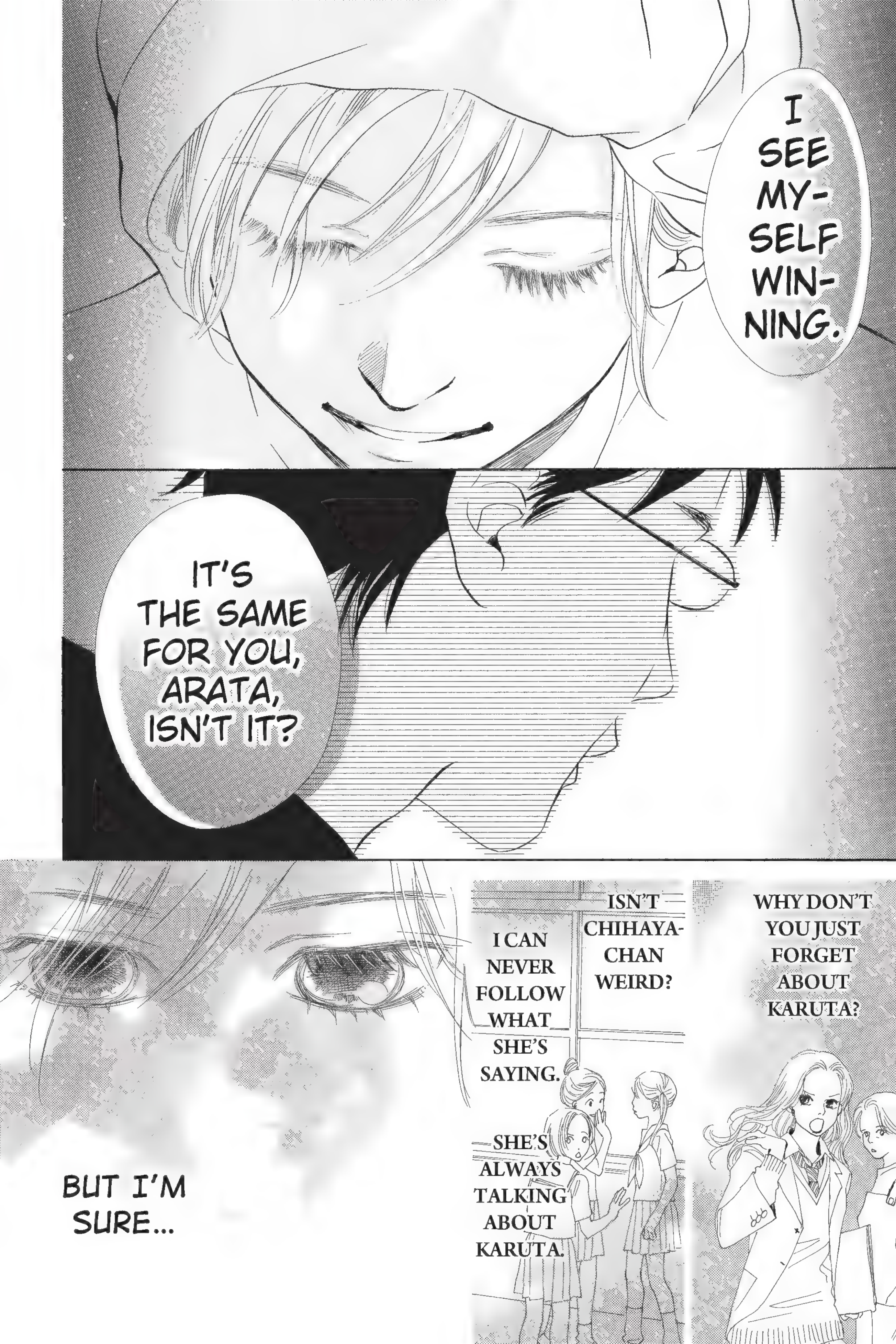

チャポン…
SPLOOSH
…
ドロッ…
SPLATTER
What am I supposed to do with this…?
…
ARATA.
I PUT SOME CLOTHES SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WEAR IN THE CHANGING ROOM.
SORRY, YUU.
チロ…
GLANCE
I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT HERE. IT'S A PRESENT FROM TOKYO.
…
YOU CAN HAVE SOME TOO, NEIGHBOR.
Tokyo Celeb Sable Cookies

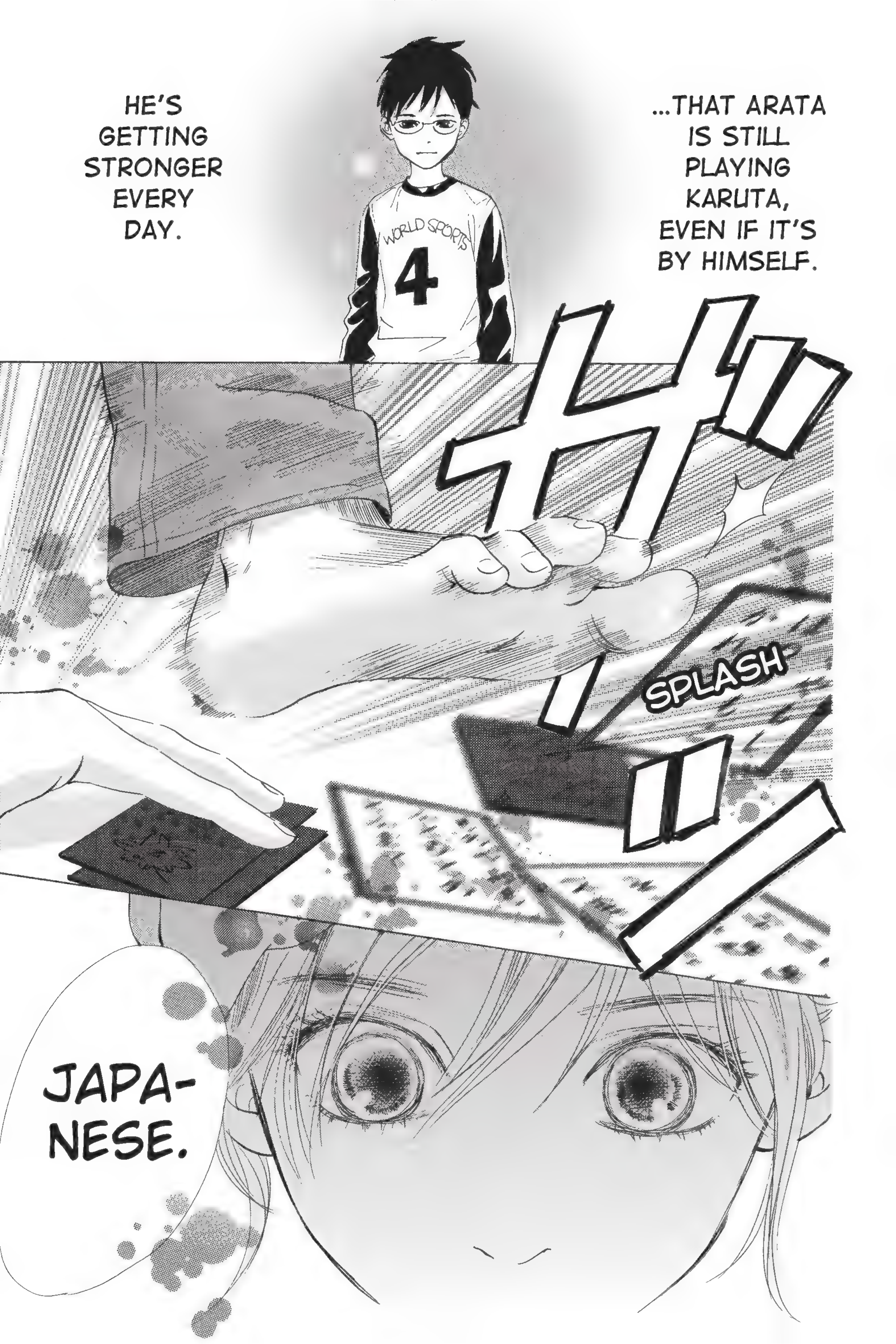

ス…
SST
YOU GOT TALLER TOO, ARATA.
WHAT'S YOUR HEIGHT?
THUNK
…
173 CENTIMETERS…
I'M LOSING BY ONE!
ガーン
GAAH
WOW! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
I'M 173, TOO!
コト
THUNK
SURE
Y'ARENT EXAGGERATING?
I KNOW YOU'VE ACTED LIKE A COWARD BEFORE.
ガラッ
RATTLE

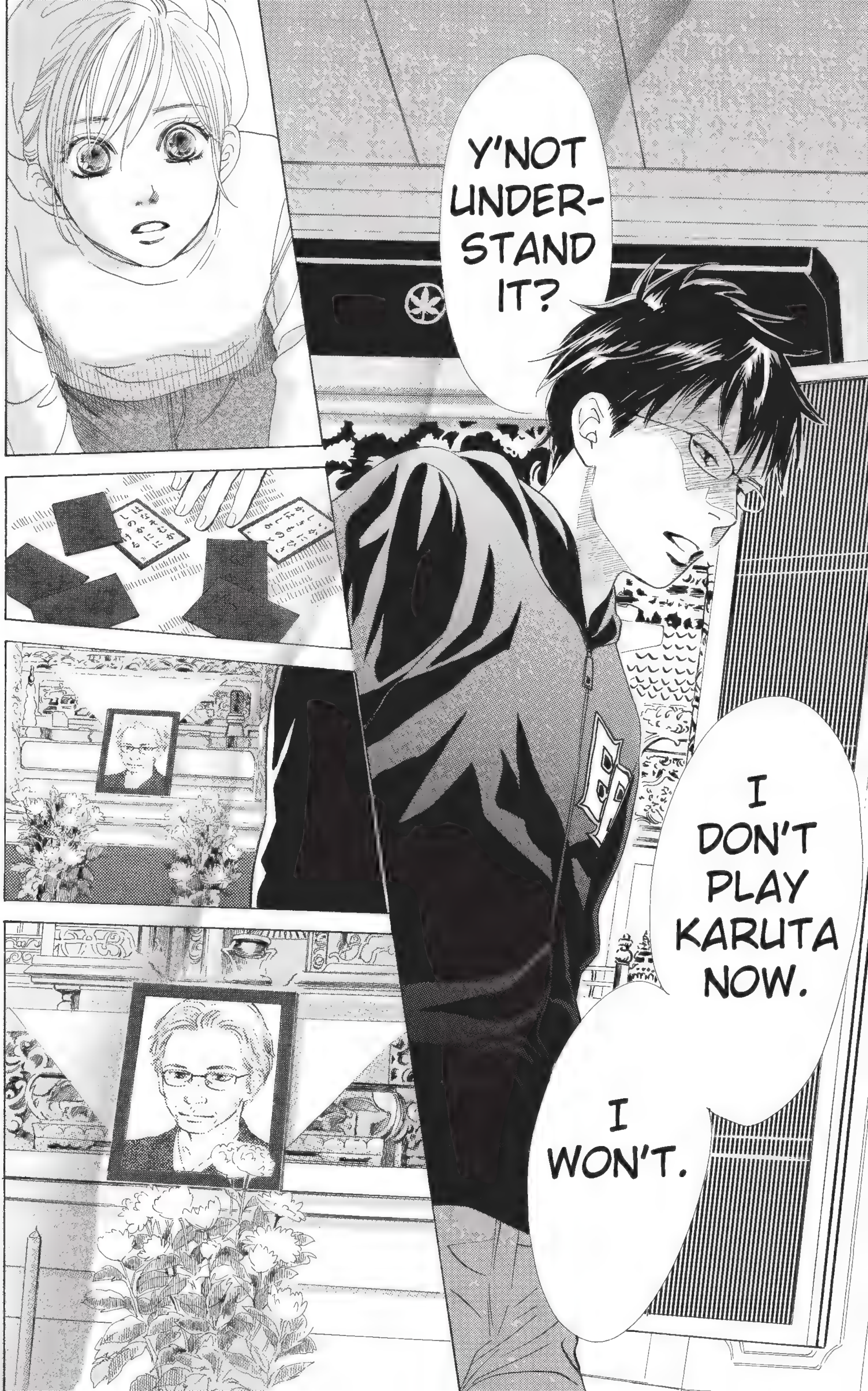

TH-
THANKS FOR LETTING ME USE YOUR BATH!
Out in the open
WHY'D YOU WASH YOUR HAIR, TOO?!
'CAUSE I GOT THE BACK OF MY HEAD MUDDY!
MY PANTIES WERE FINE, THOUGH.
DON'T USE THAT WORD!
What are you, an elementary schooler?!
YOU CAN KEEP THE CLOTHES.
HEAD BACK ONCE YOUR HAIR GETS DRY.

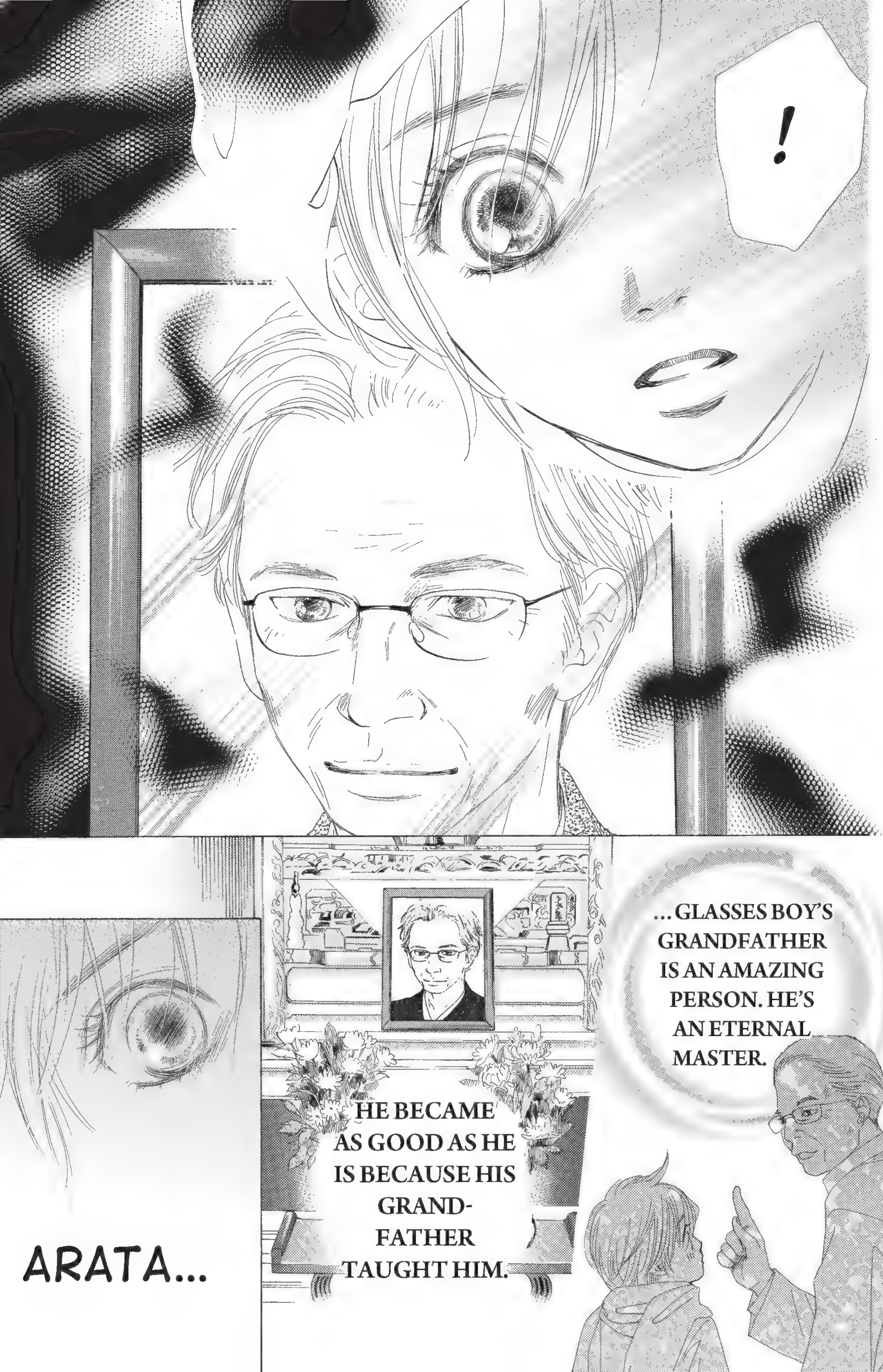

HUH ...?
CHI-HA-YA.
LET'S GO.
HUH? BUT WAIT, TAICHI.
I WROTE A LETTER FOR ARATA.
A LETTER??
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO MEET HIM?!
WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW IF I'D BE ABLE TO TALK PROPERLY.
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D READ IT AS I DID...
WHAT IS THIS, A TV SPECIAL?
HERE.
THIS IS IT...

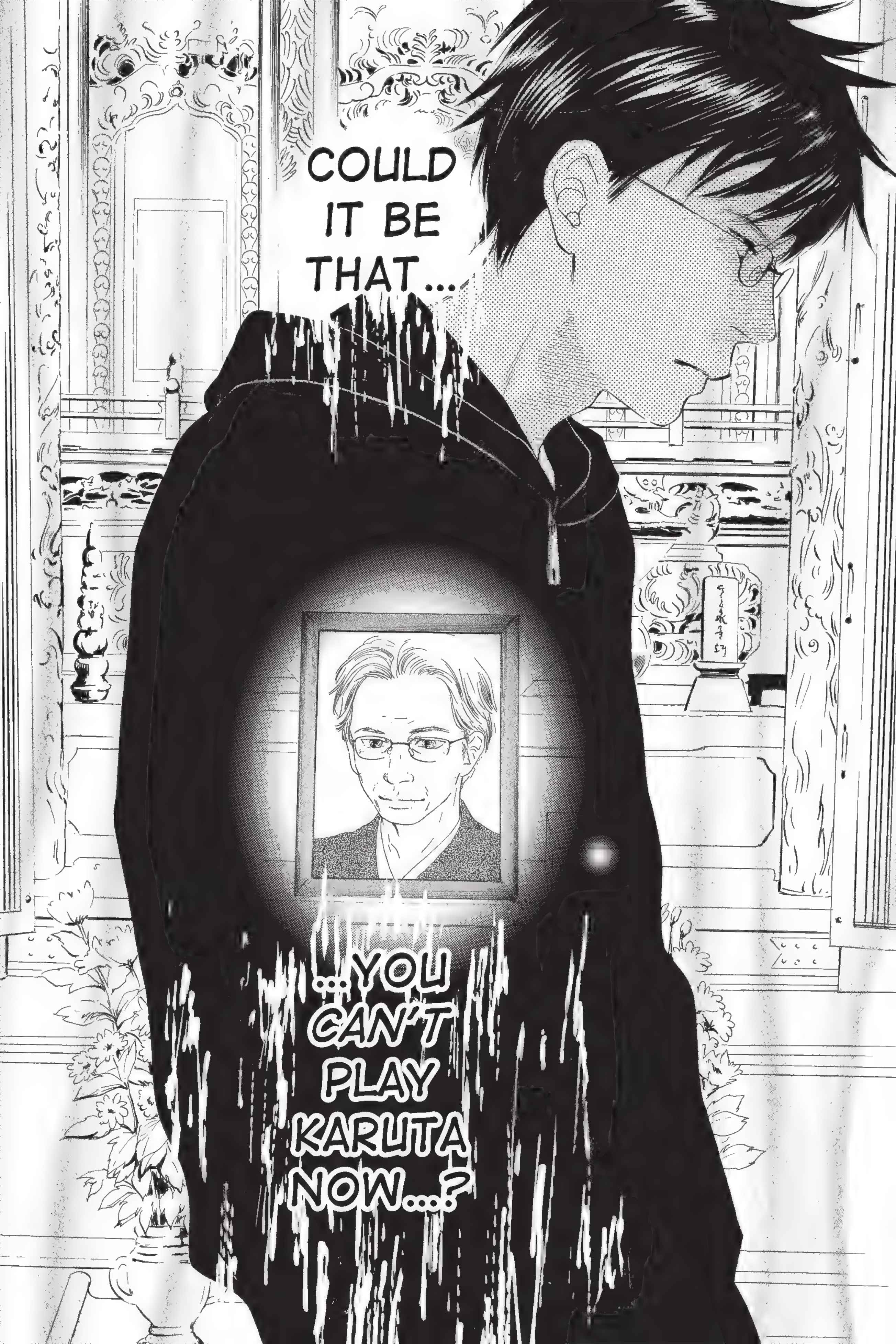

LET'S PLAY KARUTA AGAIN.
THE THREE OF US TOGETHER.
ガラ RATTLE
CAN I USE THIS ROOM OVER HERE?
IS THIS WHERE YOU USED TO PRACTICE, ARATA?
CHIHAYA.
MY FAVORITE PART...
...OF PLAYING KARUTA...
IS WHEN YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR TWENTY-FIVE CARDS...
...AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO FLIP THEM.
ガシャ SHUFFLE
ガシャ SHUFFLE
I CAN FEEL MY HEART BEATING,
AND IT'S LIKE I'M IN A DAYDREAM.


I SEE MYSELF WINNING.
IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU, ARATA, ISN'T IT?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST FORGET ABOUT KARUTA?
ISN'T CHIHAYA-CHAN WEIRD?
I CAN NEVER FOLLOW WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
SHE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT KARUTA.
BUT I'M SURE...

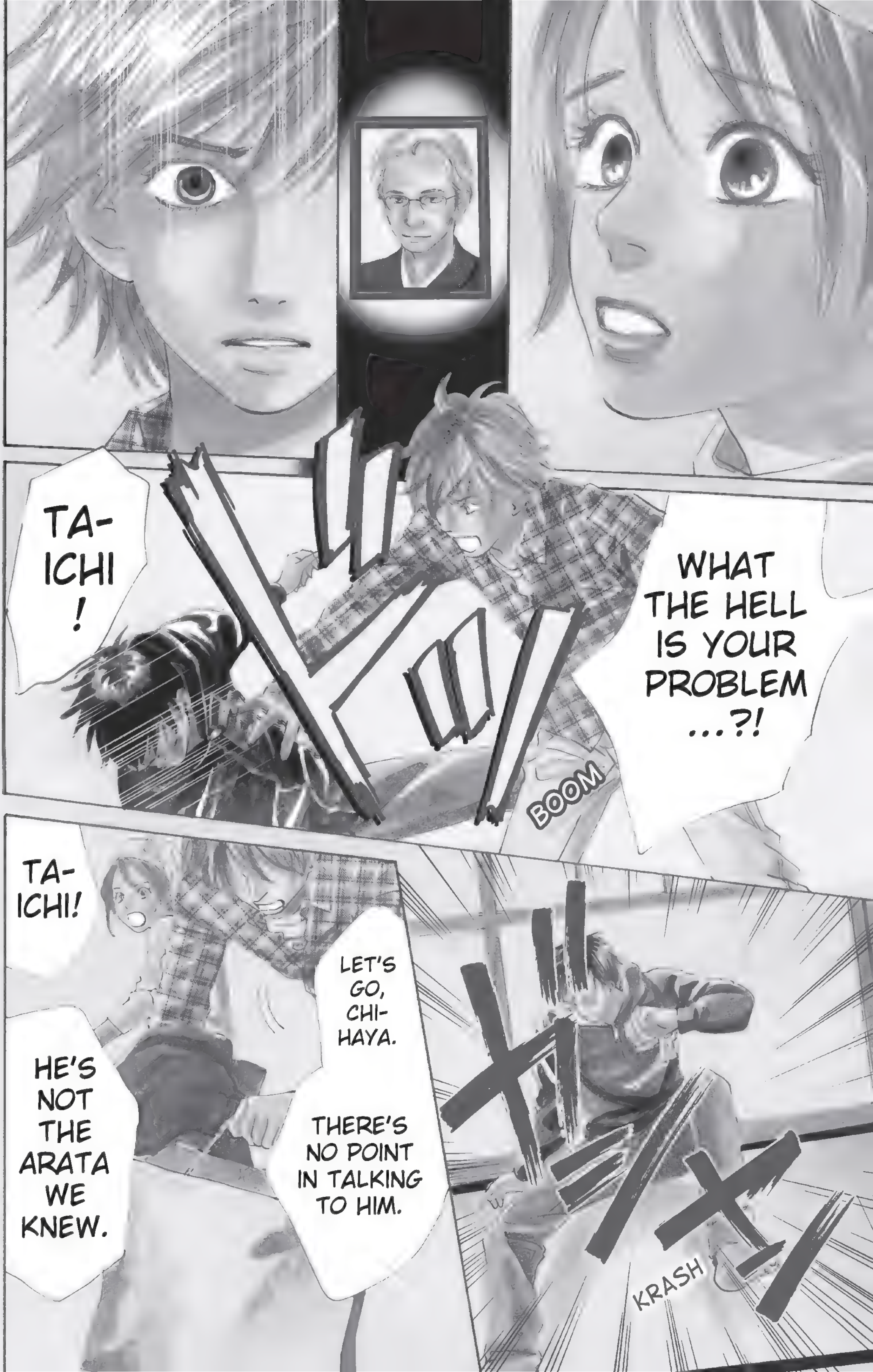

...THAT ARATA IS STILL PLAYING KARUTA, EVEN IF IT'S BY HIMSELF.
HE'S GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY.
ガッ
SPLASH
JAPANESE.

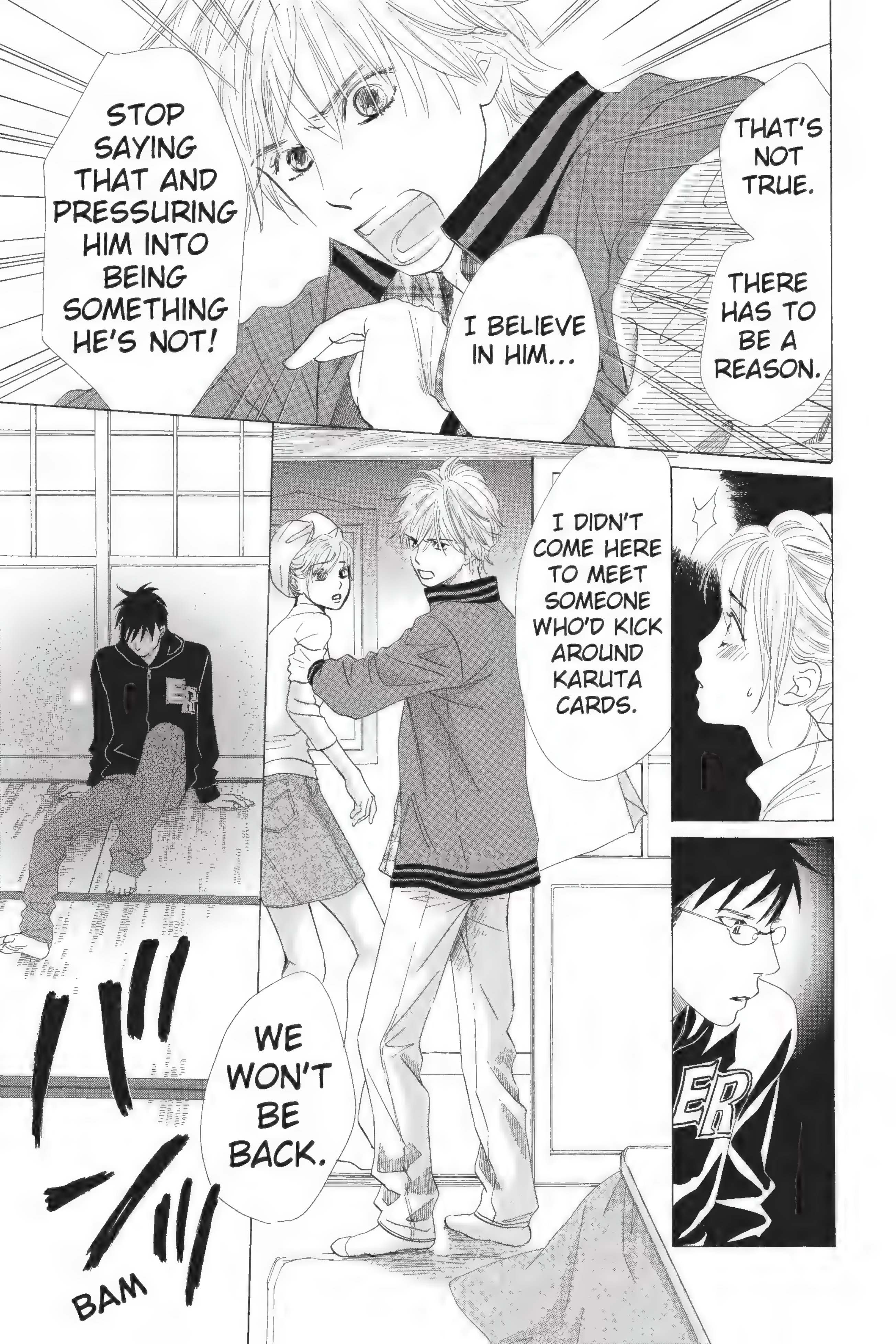

Y'NOT UNDERSTAND IT?
I DON'T PLAY KARUTA NOW.
I WON'T.

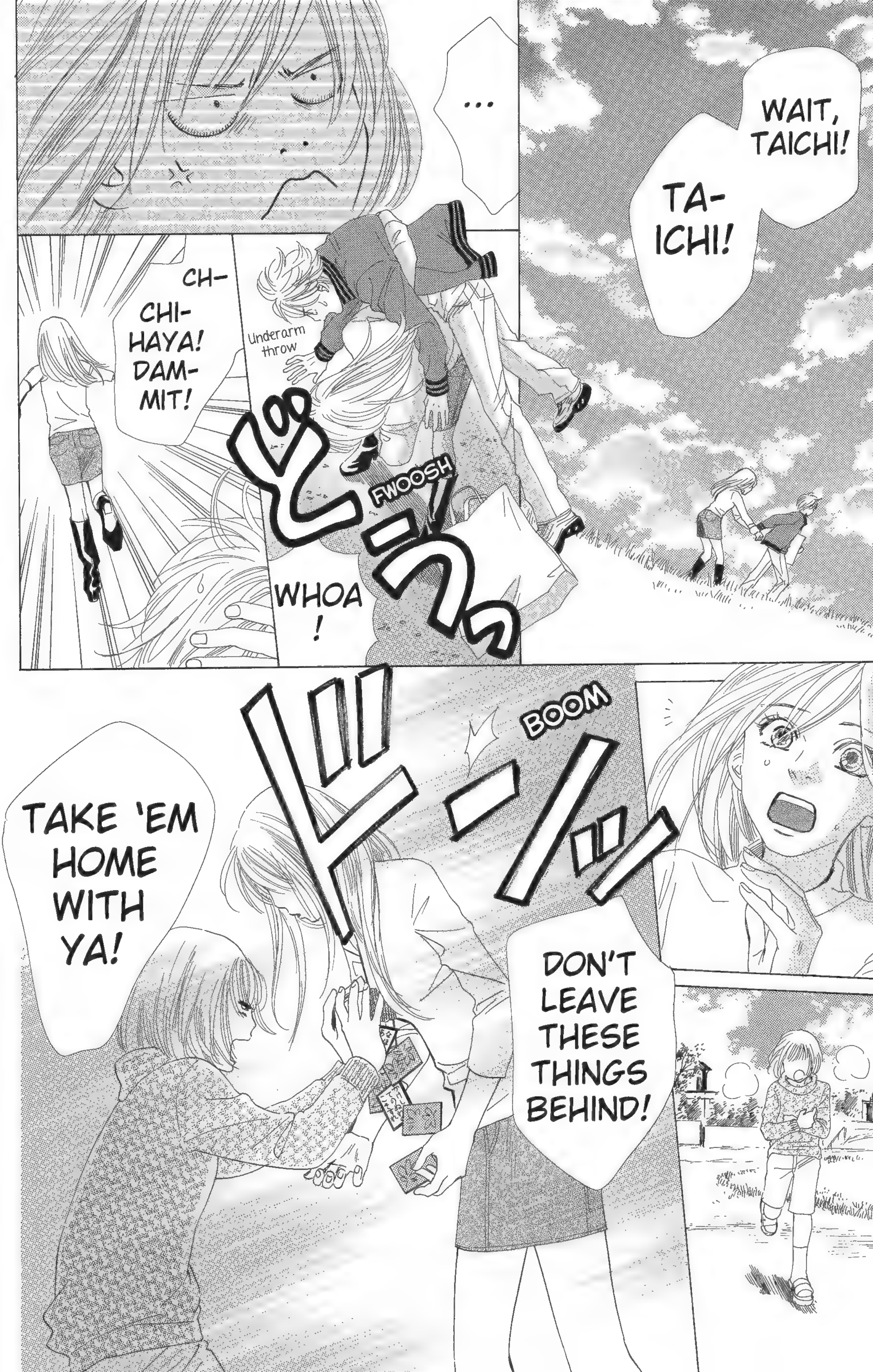

!
...GLASSES BOY'S GRANDFATHER IS AN AMAZING PERSON. HE'S AN ETERNAL MASTER.
HE BECAME AS GOOD AS HE IS BECAUSE HIS GRANDFATHER TAUGHT HIM.
ARATA...

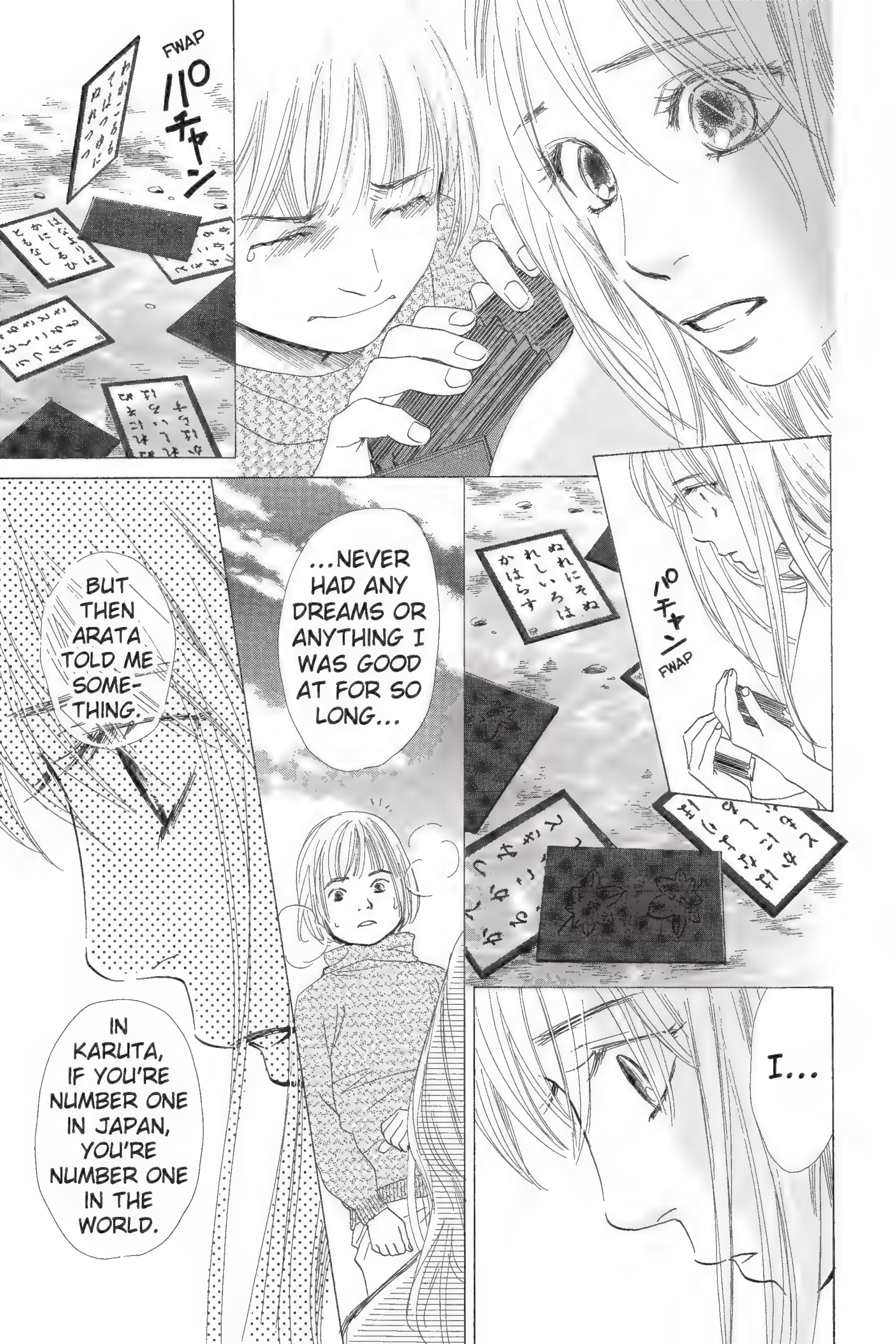

COULD IT BE THAT...
...YOU CAN'T PLAY KARUTA NOW...?

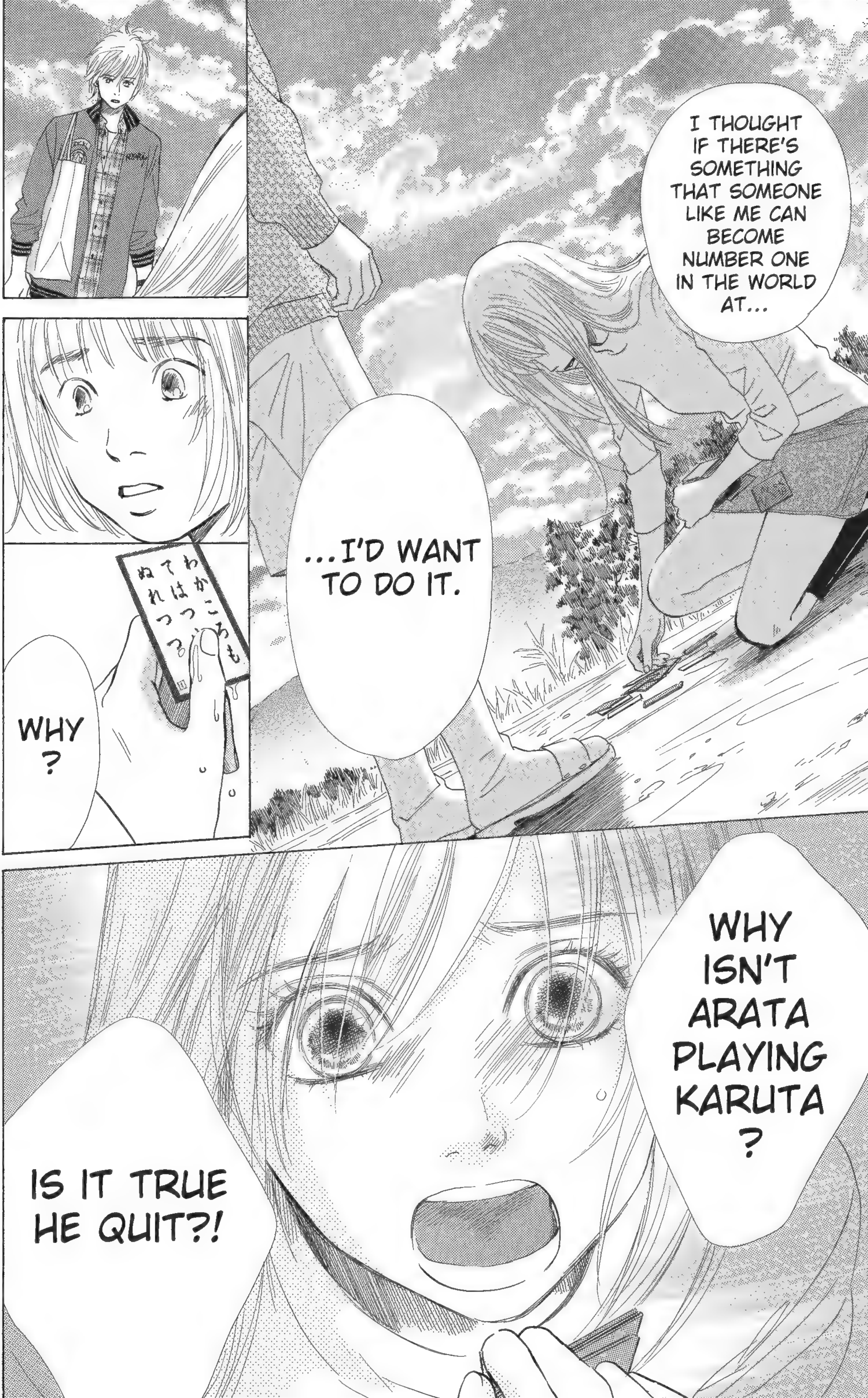
VERSE 10
Chihayafuru
CHIHAYA FULL

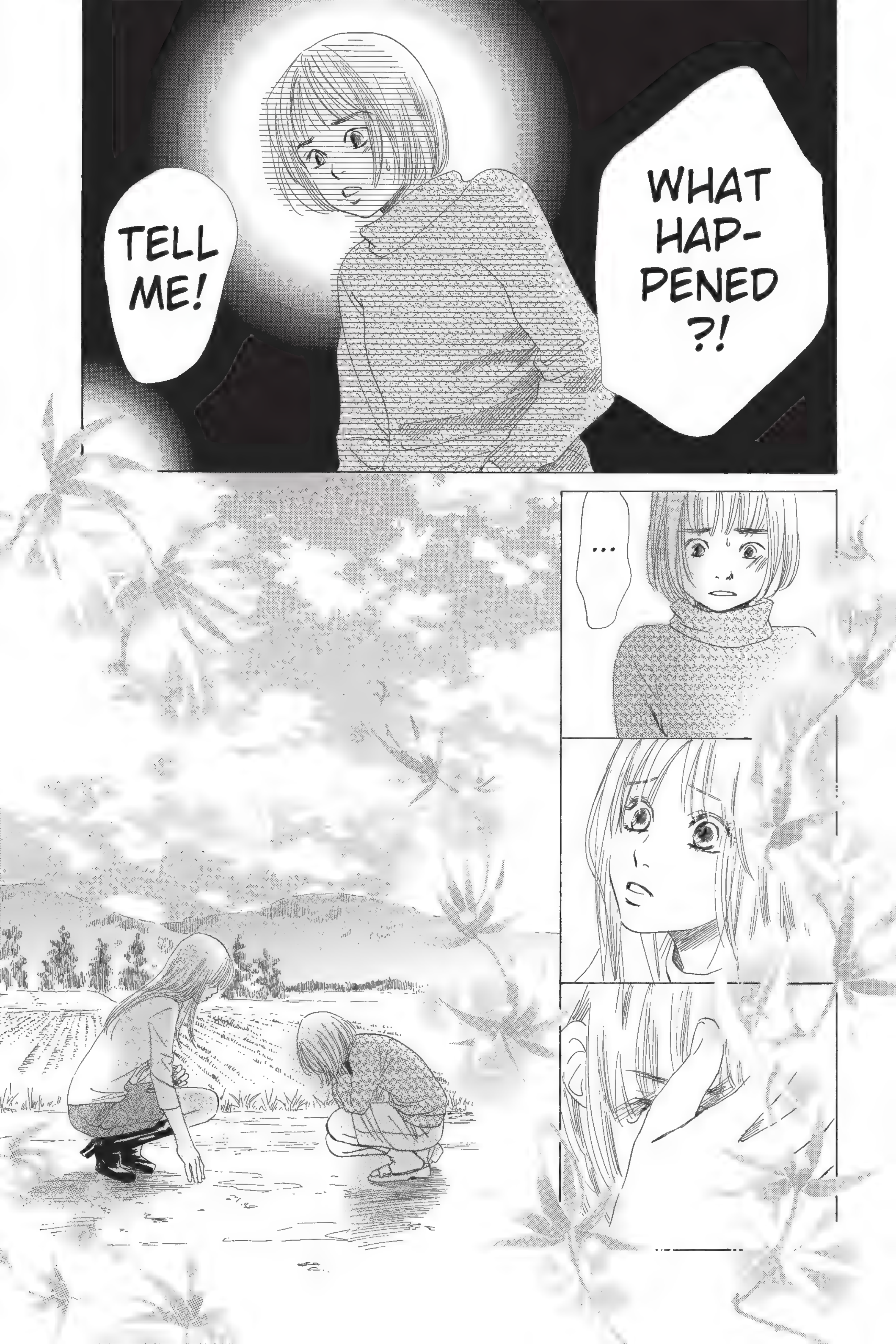

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM ...?!
BOOM
TAICHI!
KRASH
LET'S GO, CHIHAYA.
THERE'S NO POINT IN TALKING TO HIM.
HE'S NOT THE ARATA WE KNEW.
TAICHI!

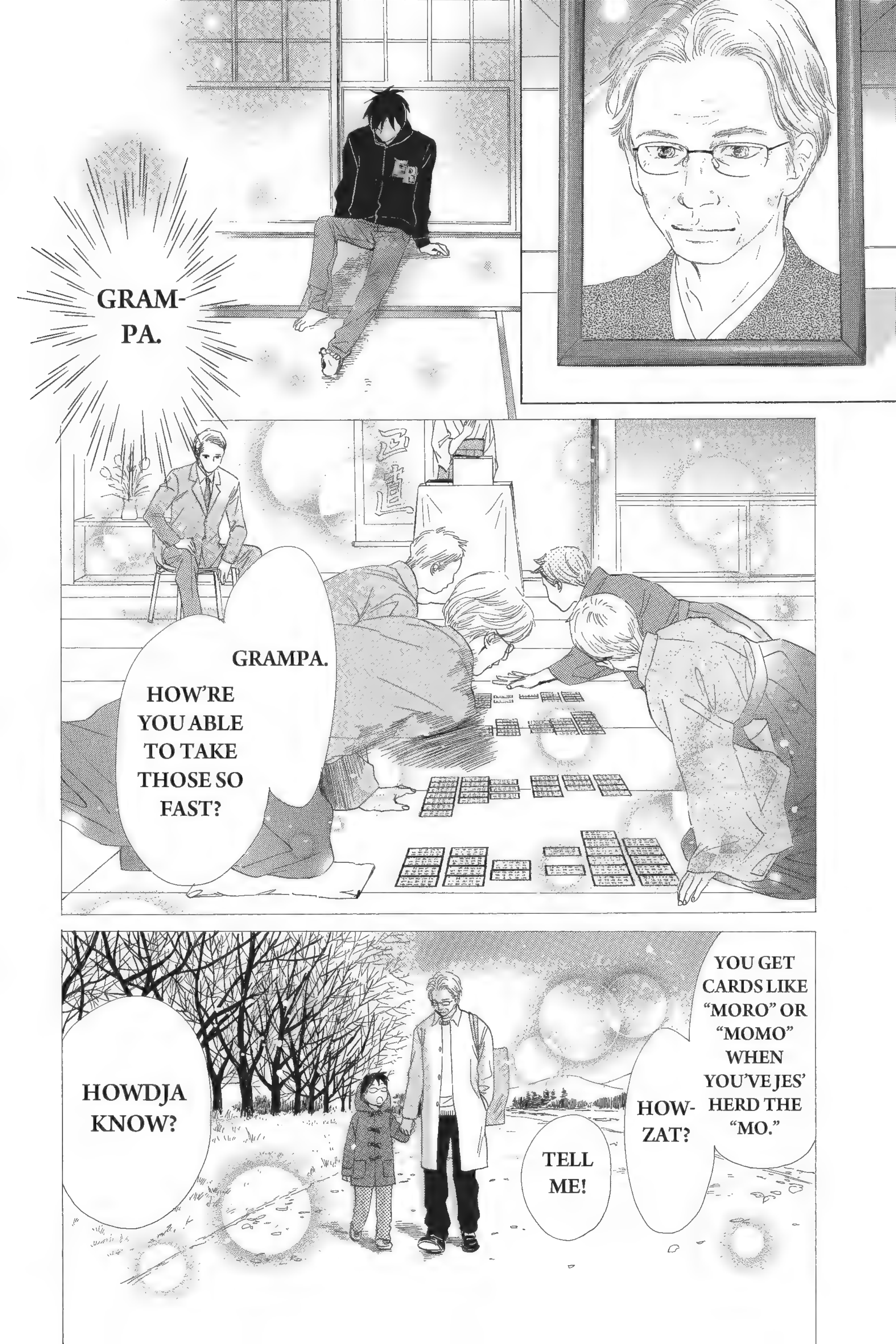

THAT'S NOT TRUE.
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON.
I BELIEVE IN HIM...
STOP SAYING THAT AND PRESSURING HIM INTO BEING SOMETHING HE'S NOT!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO MEET SOMEONE WHO'D KICK AROUND KARUTA CARDS.
WE WON'T BE BACK.
BAM

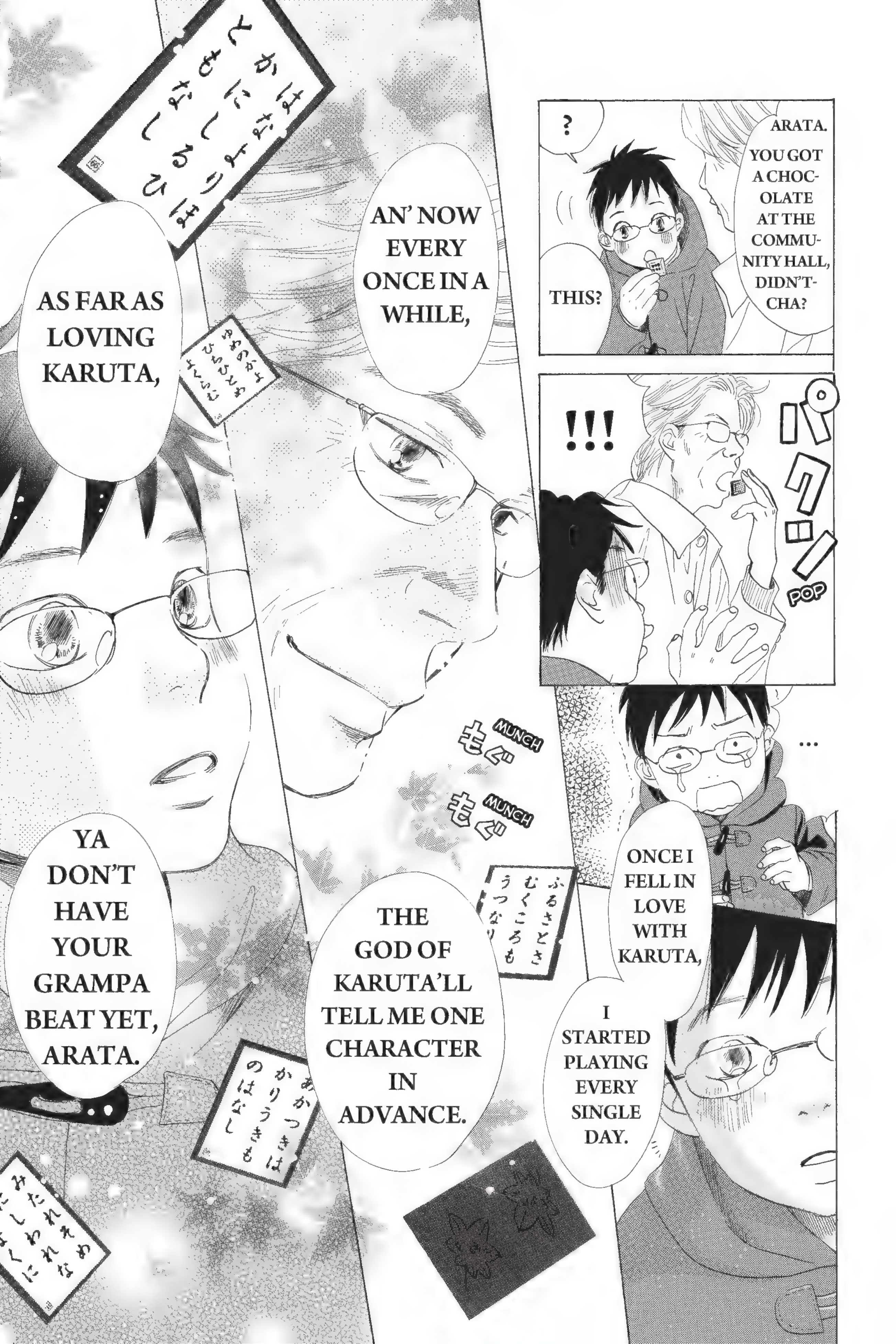

WAIT, TAICHI!
TA-ICHI!
...
CH-CHI-HAYA! DAMMIT!
Underarm throw
FWOOSH
WHOA!
BOOM
DON'T LEAVE THESE THINGS BEHIND!
TAKE 'EM HOME WITH YA!

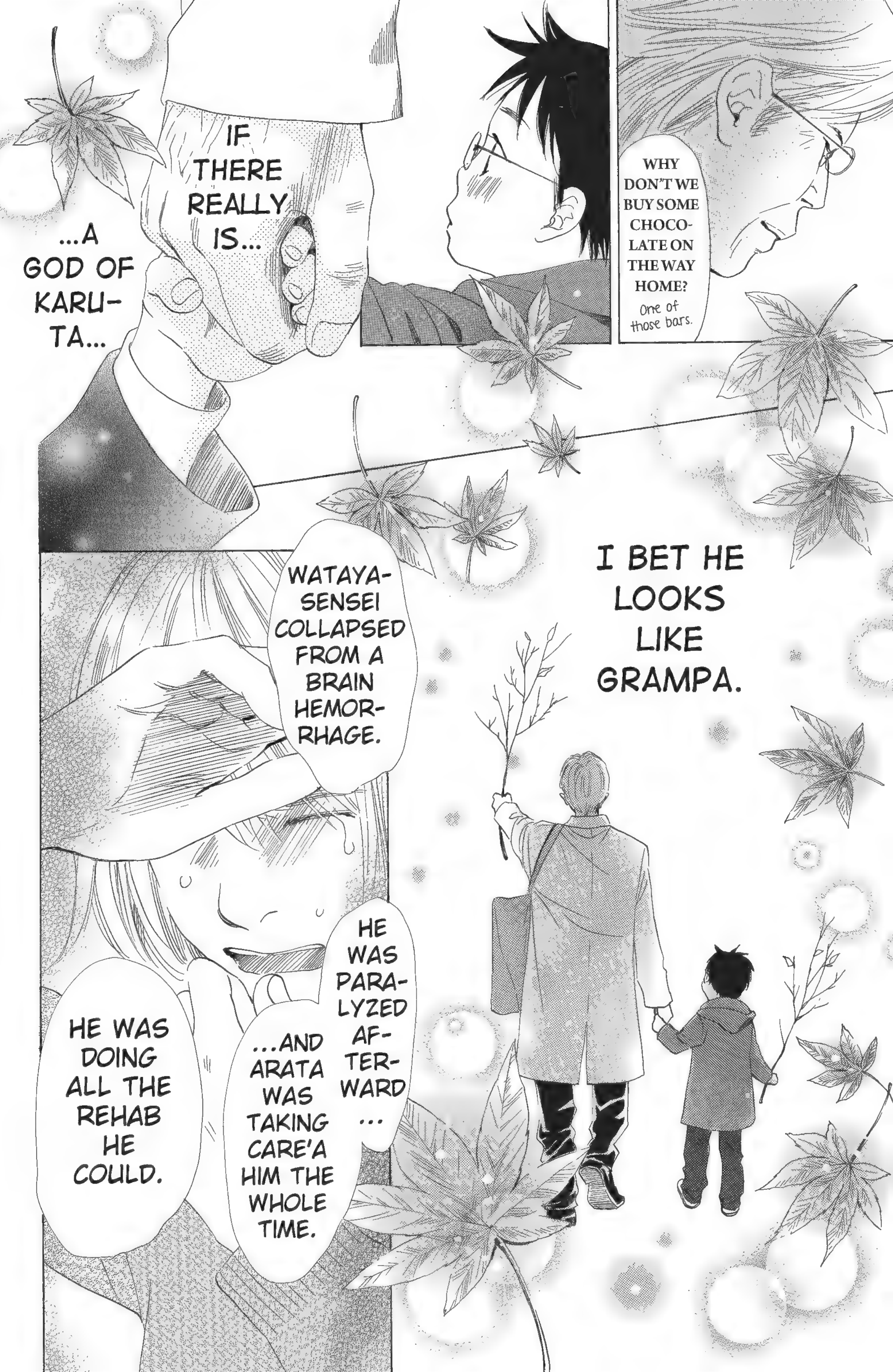

FWAP
パチャン
わがころも
てはつゆに
ぬれつつ
はなよりほ
かにしるひ
ともなし
ぬれにそぬ
れしいろは
かはらす
パチャン
FWAP
I…
…NEVER HAD ANY DREAMS OR ANYTHING I WAS GOOD AT FOR SO LONG…
BUT THEN ARATA TOLD ME SOMETHING.
IN KARUTA, IF YOU'RE NUMBER ONE IN JAPAN, YOU'RE NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD.

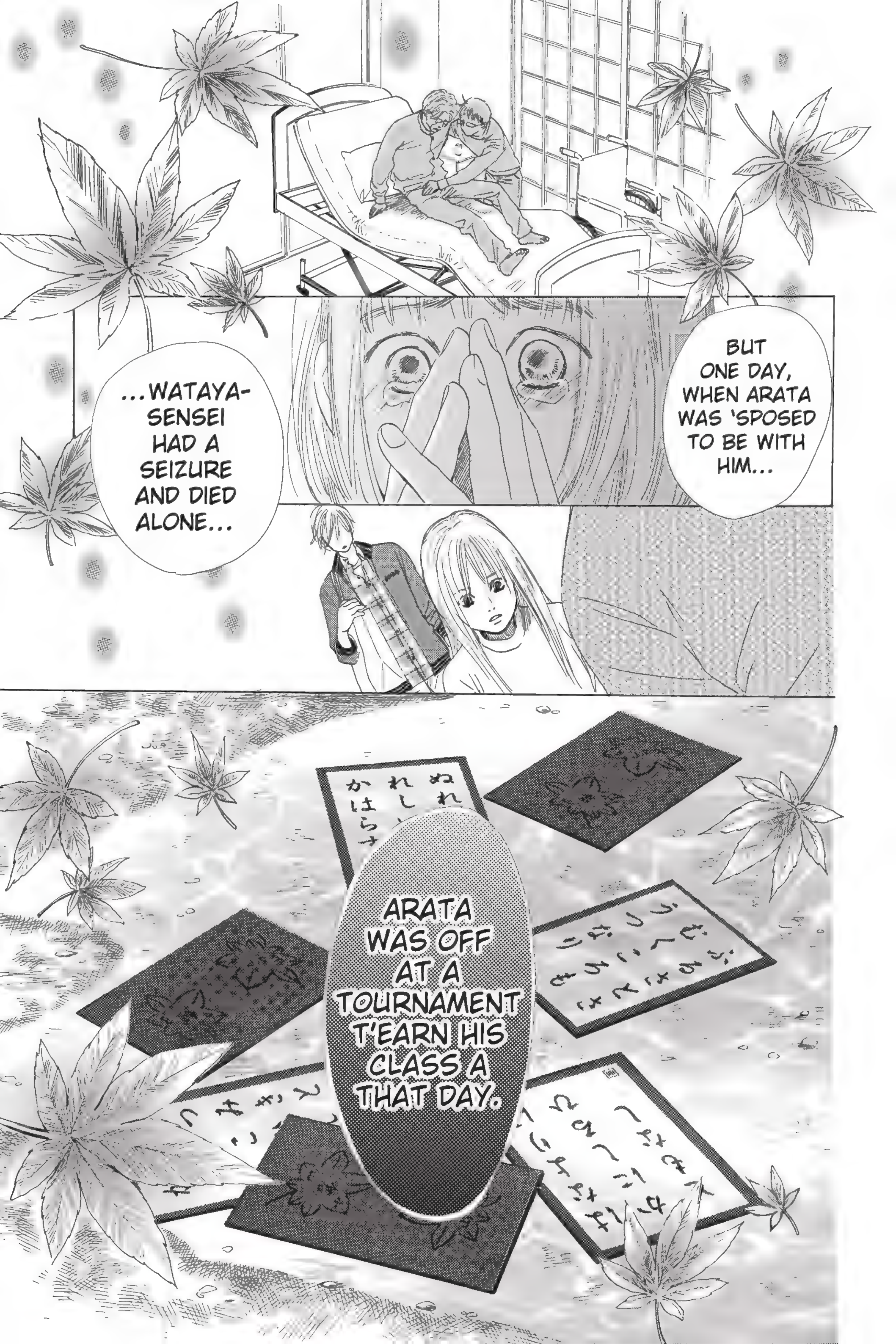

I THOUGHT IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN BECOME NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD AT...
...I'D WANT TO DO IT.
わかころも
てはつ
ぬれつつ
WHY?
WHY ISN'T ARATA PLAYING KARUTA?
IS IT TRUE HE QUIT?!

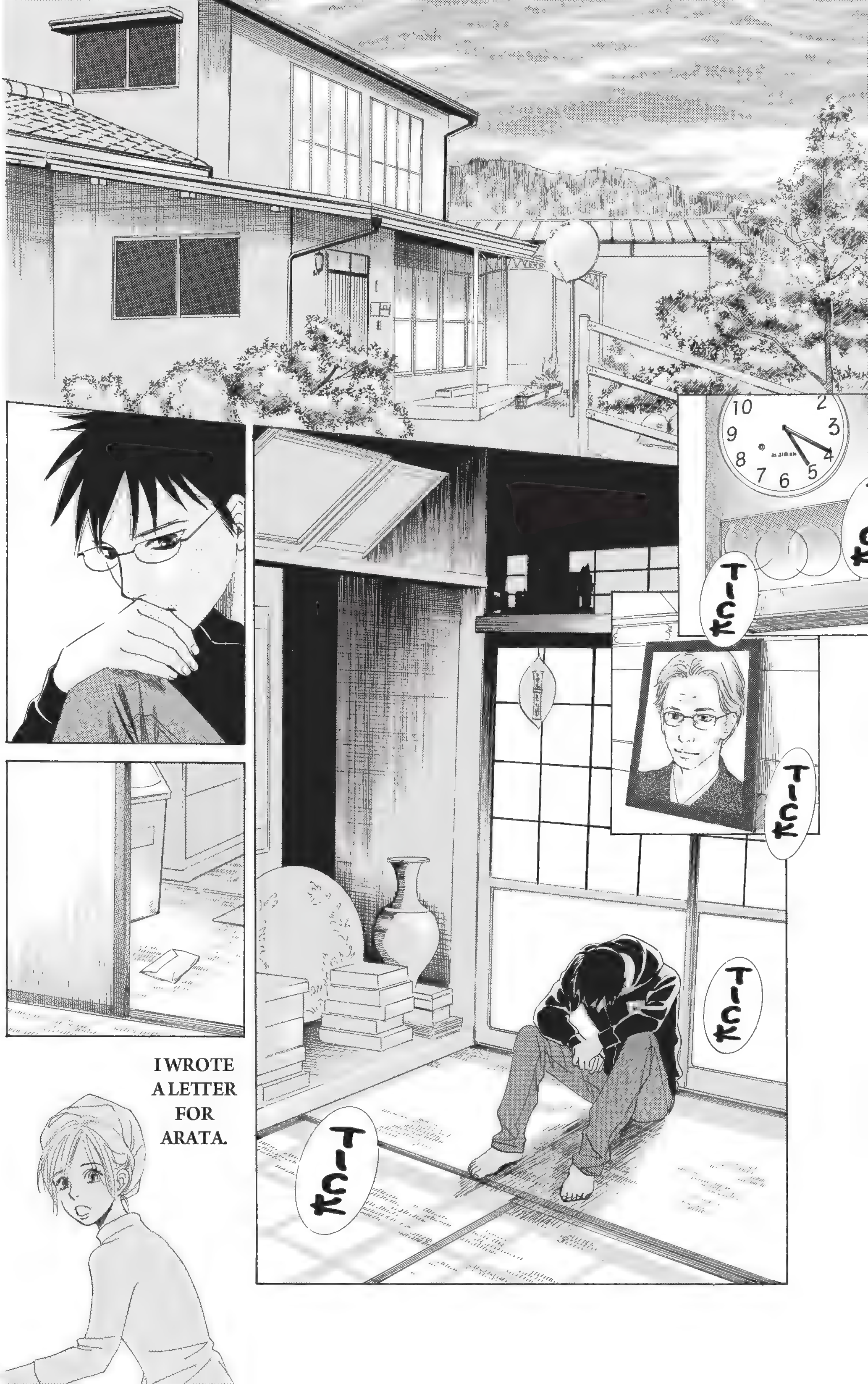

WHAT HAPPENED?!
TELL ME!
...

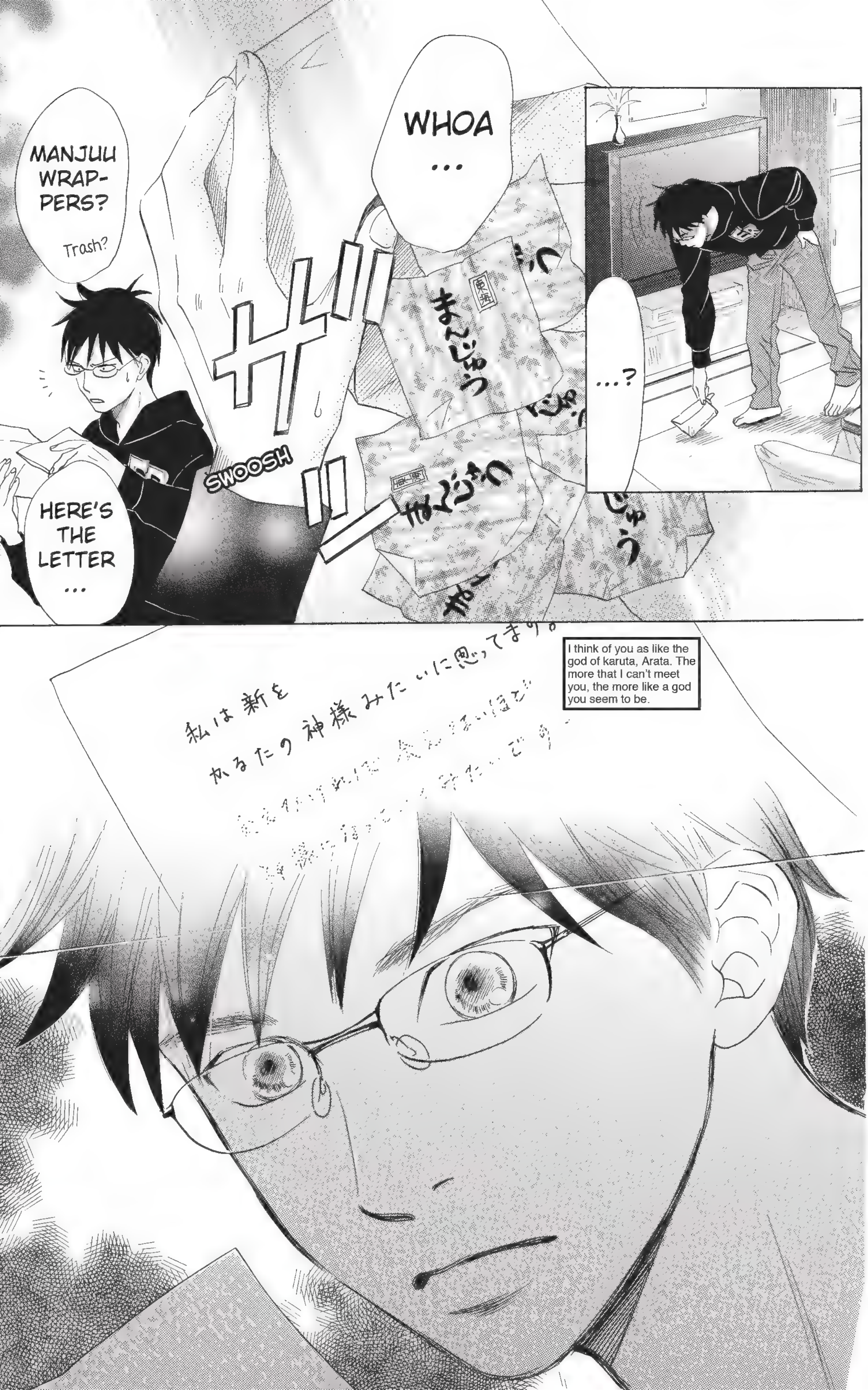

GRAM-PA.
GRAMPA.
HOW'RE YOU ABLE TO TAKE THOSE SO FAST?
YOU GET CARDS LIKE "MORO" OR "MOMO" WHEN YOU'VE JES' HERD THE "MO."
HOW-ZAT?
TELL ME!
HOWDJA KNOW?

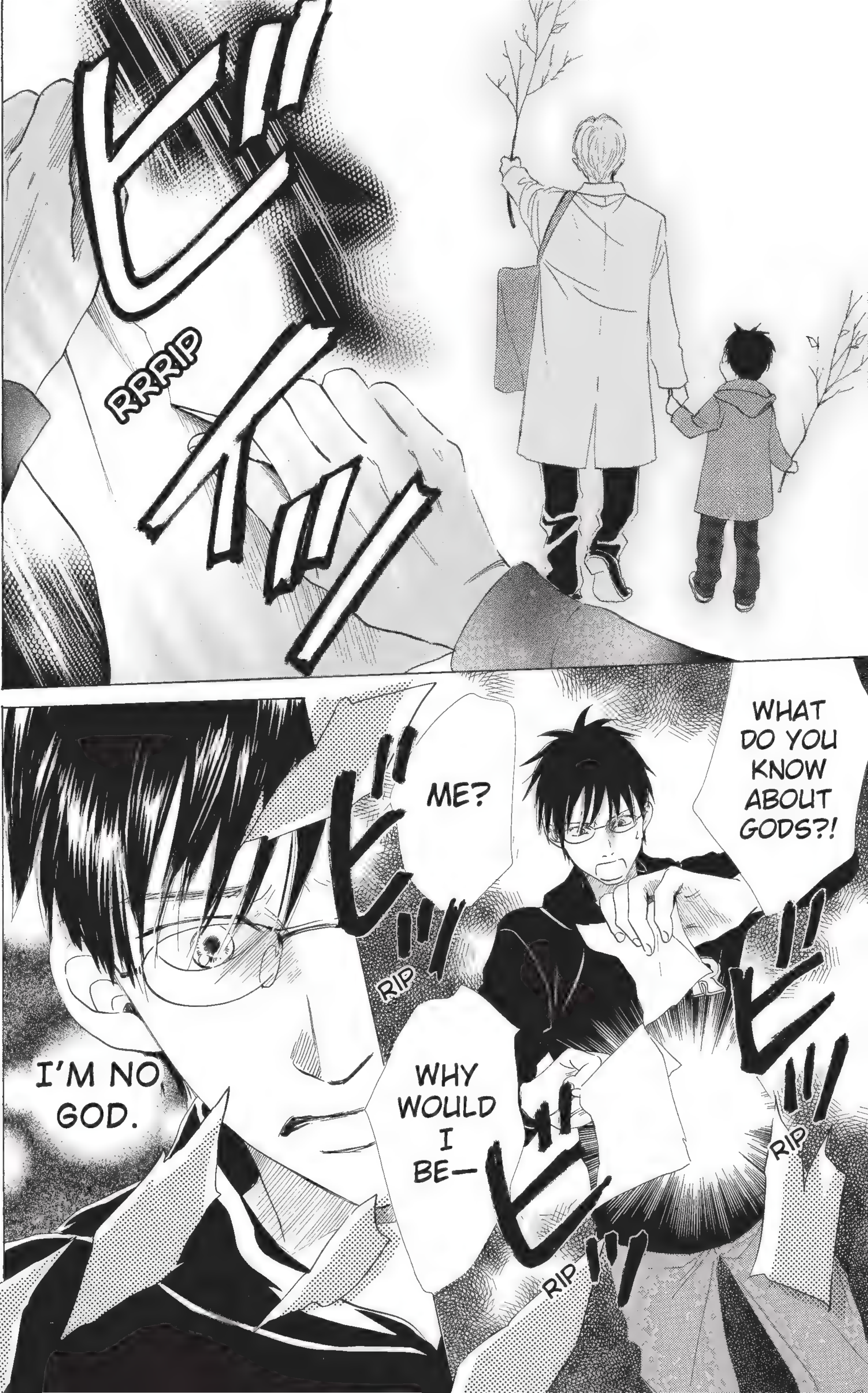

?
ARATA.
YOU GOT A CHOCOLATE AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, DIDN'T-CHA?
THIS?
!!!
パクッ
POP
...
ONCE I FELL IN LOVE WITH KARUTA,
I STARTED PLAYING EVERY SINGLE DAY.
はなよりほかにしるひともなし
AN' NOW EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE,
AS FAR AS LOVING KARUTA,
ゆめのかよひちひとめよくらむ
もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH
THE GOD OF KARUTA'LL TELL ME ONE CHARACTER IN ADVANCE.
ふるさとさむくころもうつなり
YA DON'T HAVE YOUR GRAMPA BEAT YET, ARATA.
あかつきはかりうきものはなし
みたれそめにしわれならなくに

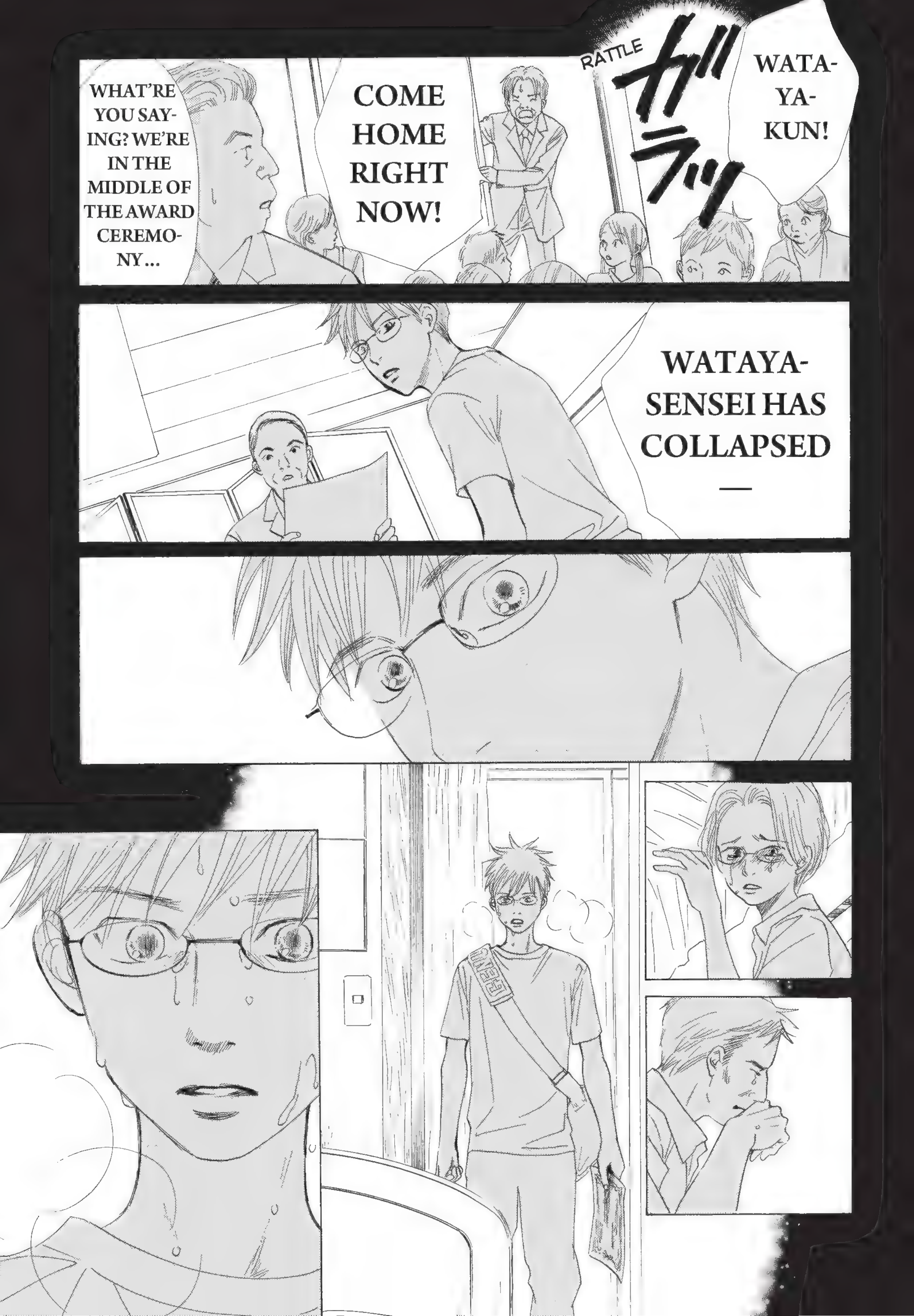

WHY DON'T WE BUY SOME CHOCOLATE ON THE WAY HOME?
One of those bars.
IF THERE REALLY IS...
...A GOD OF KARUTA...
I BET HE LOOKS LIKE GRAMPA.
WATAYA-SENSEI COLLAPSED FROM A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE.
HE WAS PARALYZED AFTERWARD...
...AND ARATA WAS TAKING CARE'A HIM THE WHOLE TIME.
HE WAS DOING ALL THE REHAB HE COULD.

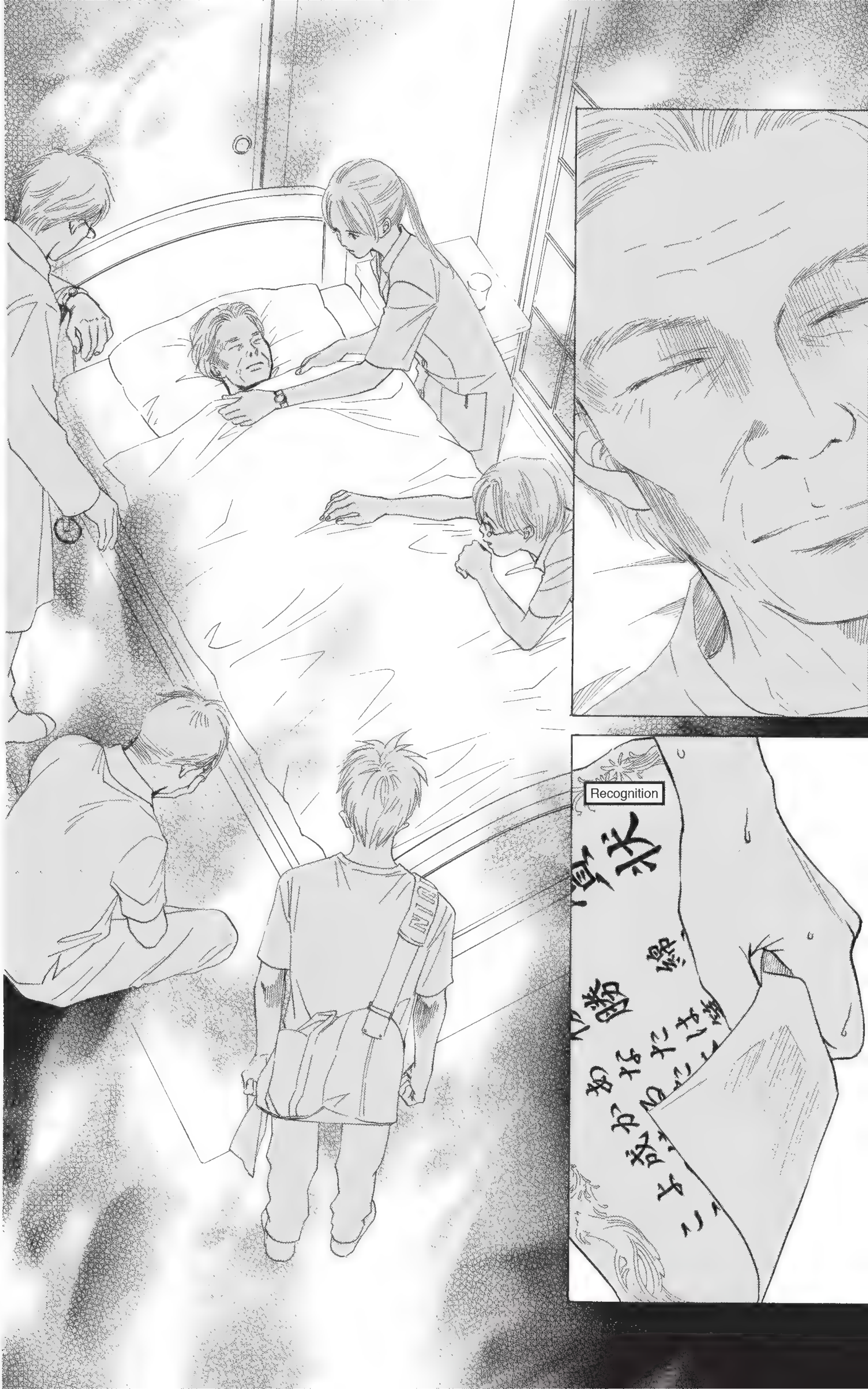

BUT ONE DAY, WHEN ARATA WAS 'SPOSED TO BE WITH HIM...
...WATAYA-SENSEI HAD A SEIZURE AND DIED ALONE...
ARATA WAS OFF AT A TOURNAMENT T'EARN HIS CLASS A THAT DAY.

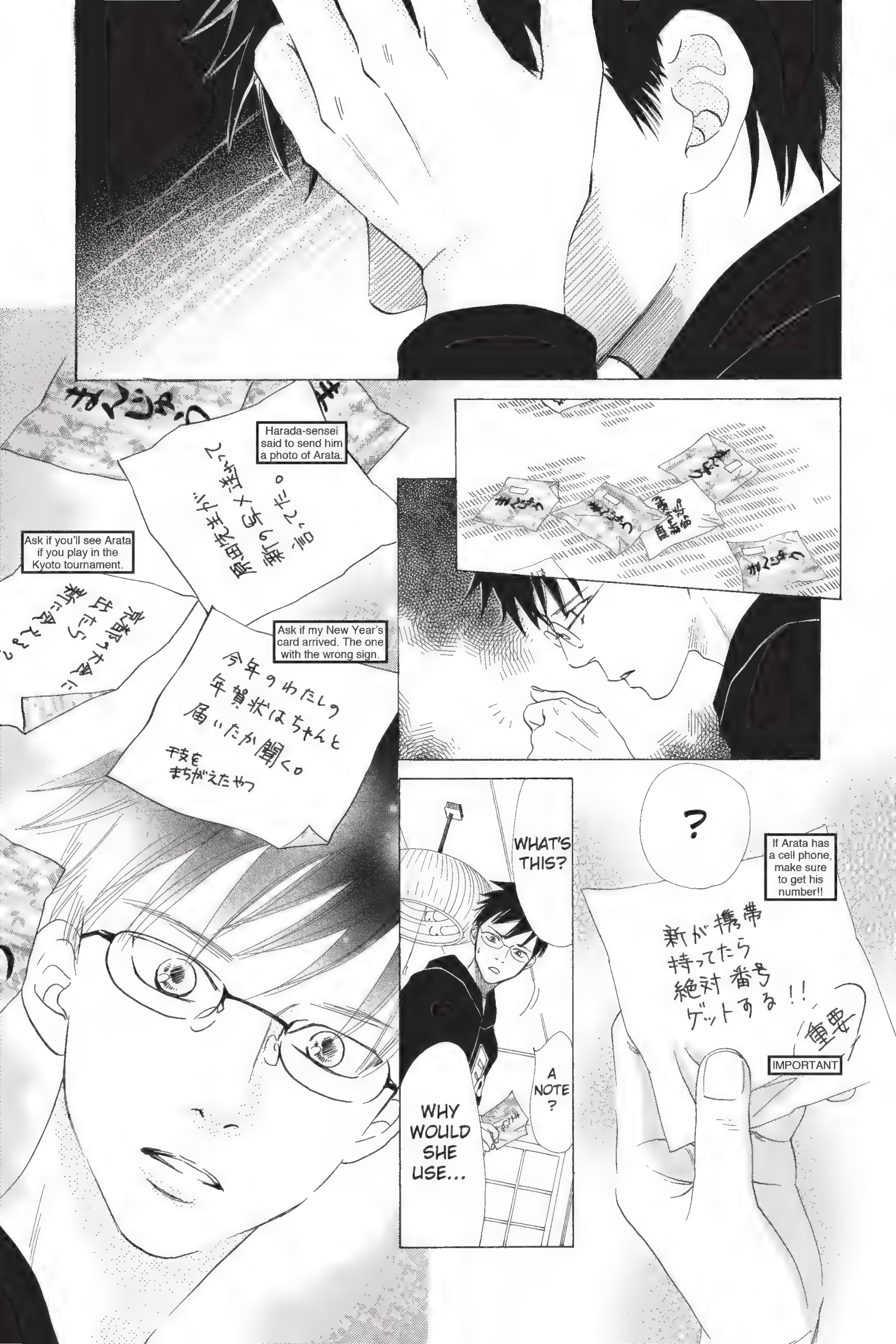

TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
I WROTE A LETTER FOR ARATA.

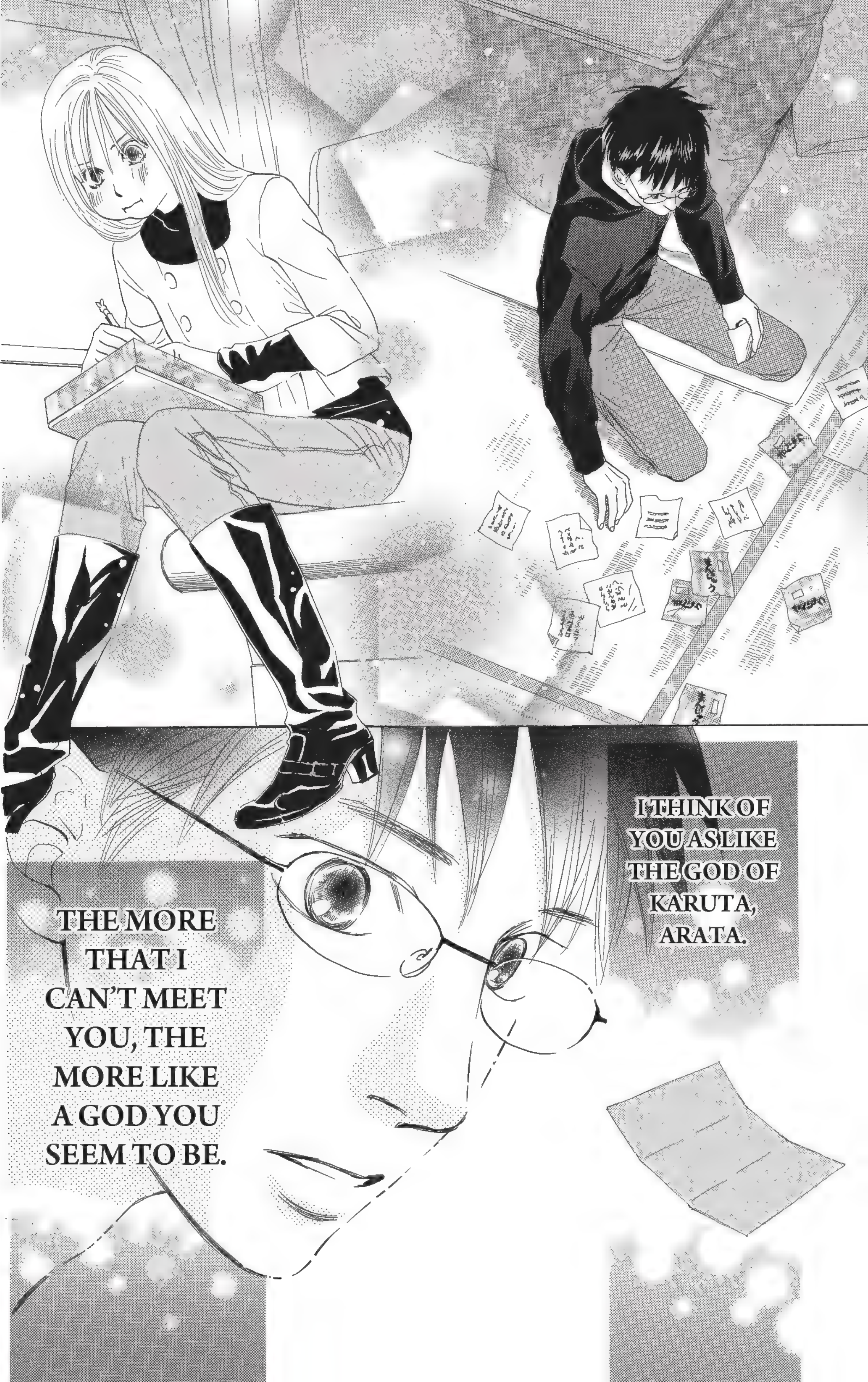

...?
WHOA ...
まんじゅう
MANJUU WRAP-PERS?
Trash?
ザ
SWOOSH
HERE'S THE LETTER ...
私は新を
かるたの神様みたいに思ってます。
I think of you as like the god of karuta, Arata. The more that I can't meet you, the more like a god you seem to be.

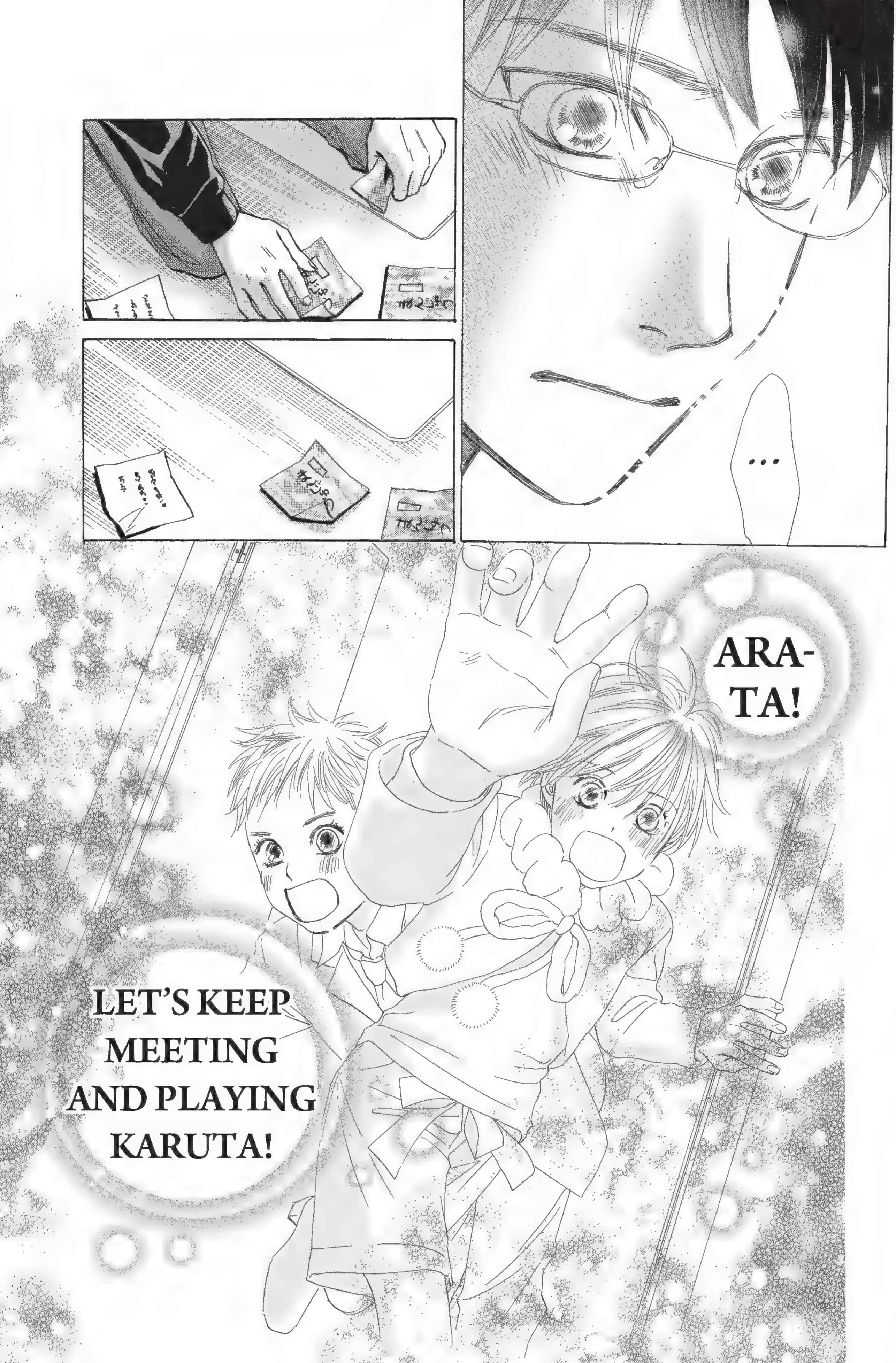

ビィッ
RRRIP
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GODS?!
ME?
ビビッ
RIP
ビビッ
RIP
WHY WOULD I BE—
I'M NO GOD.
ビビッ
RIP

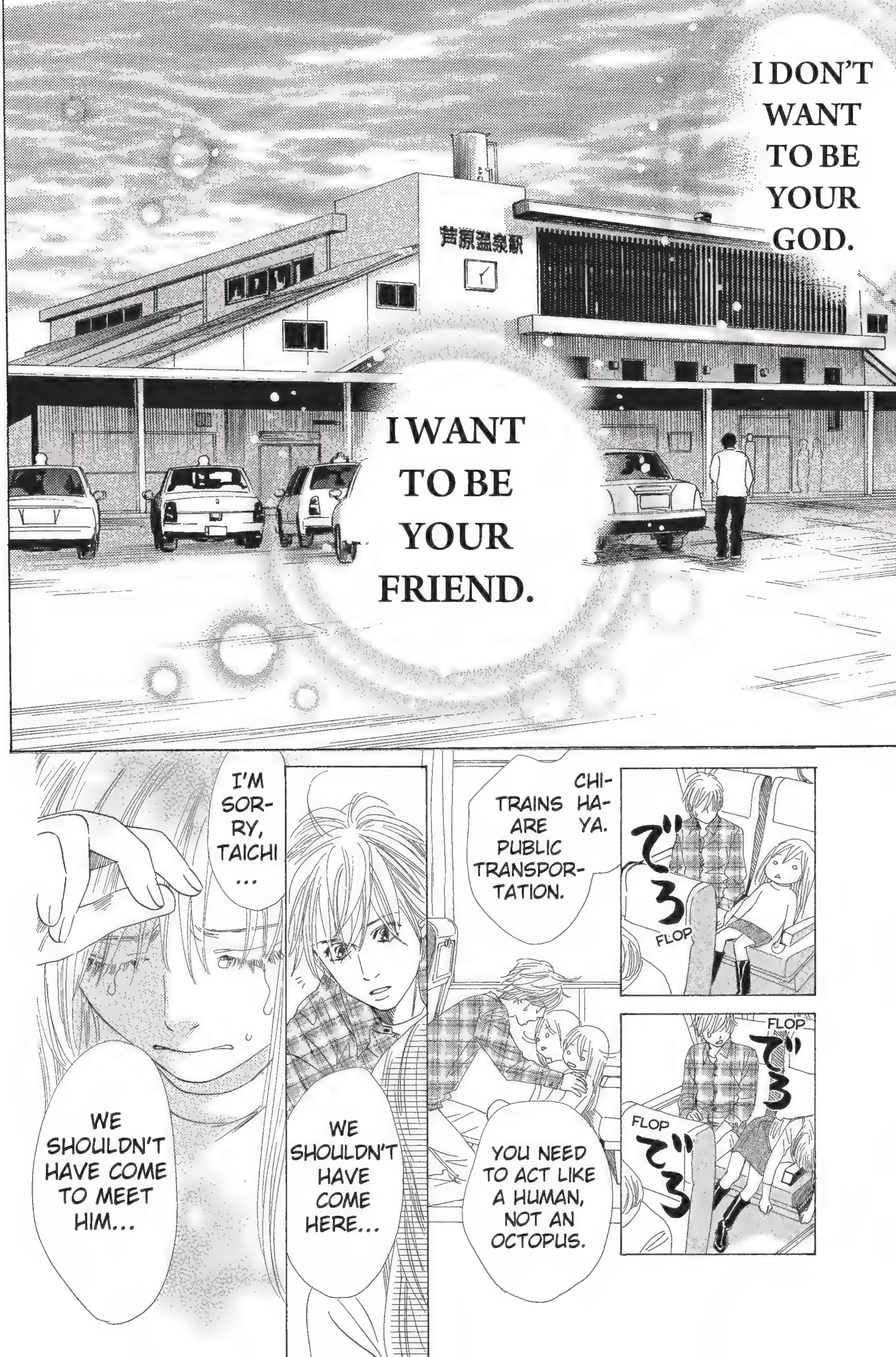

WATAYA-KUN!
RATTLE
ガラッ
COME HOME RIGHT NOW!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AWARD CEREMONY…
WATAYA-SENSEI HAS COLLAPSED —

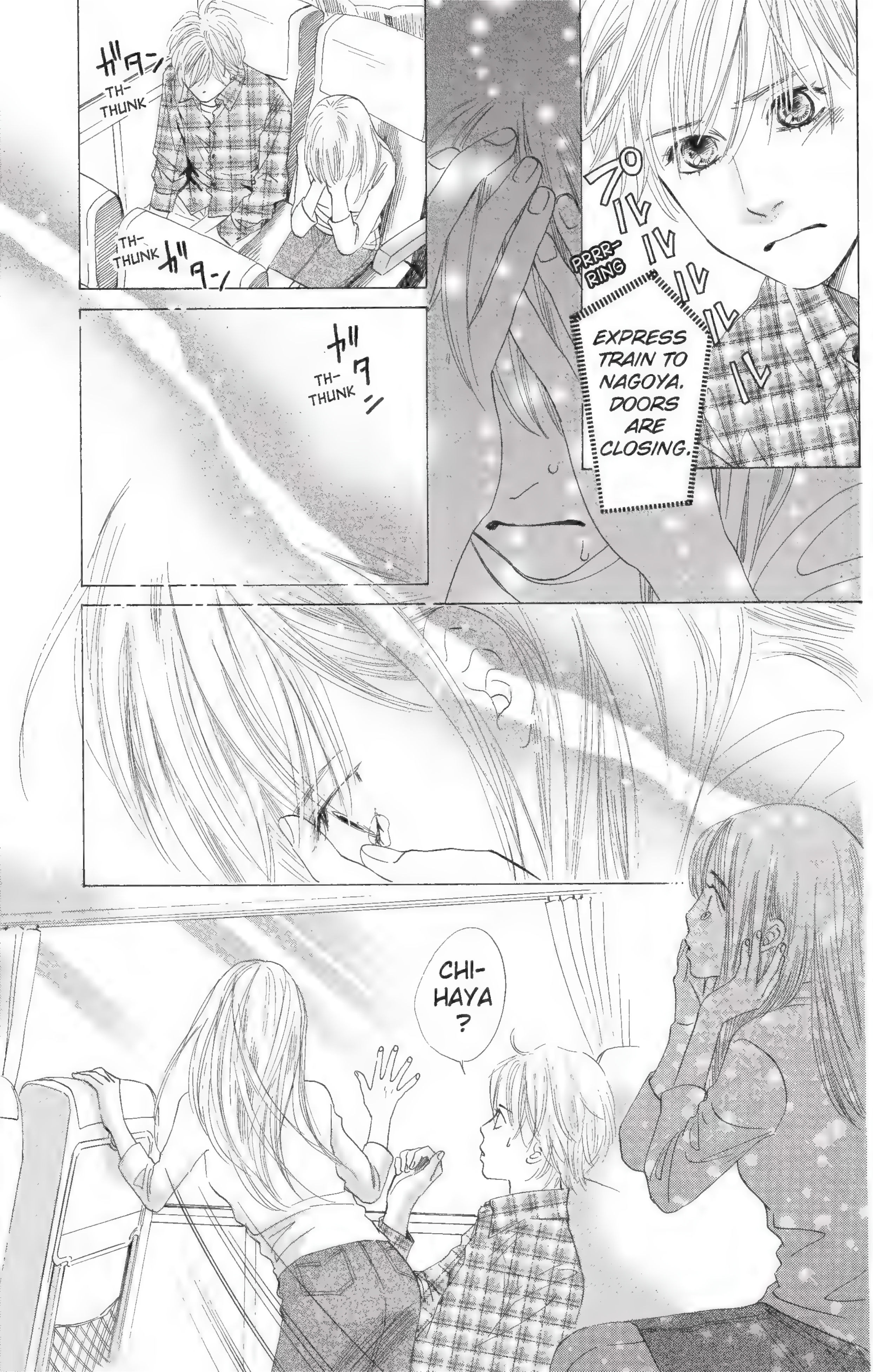

Recognition
賞状

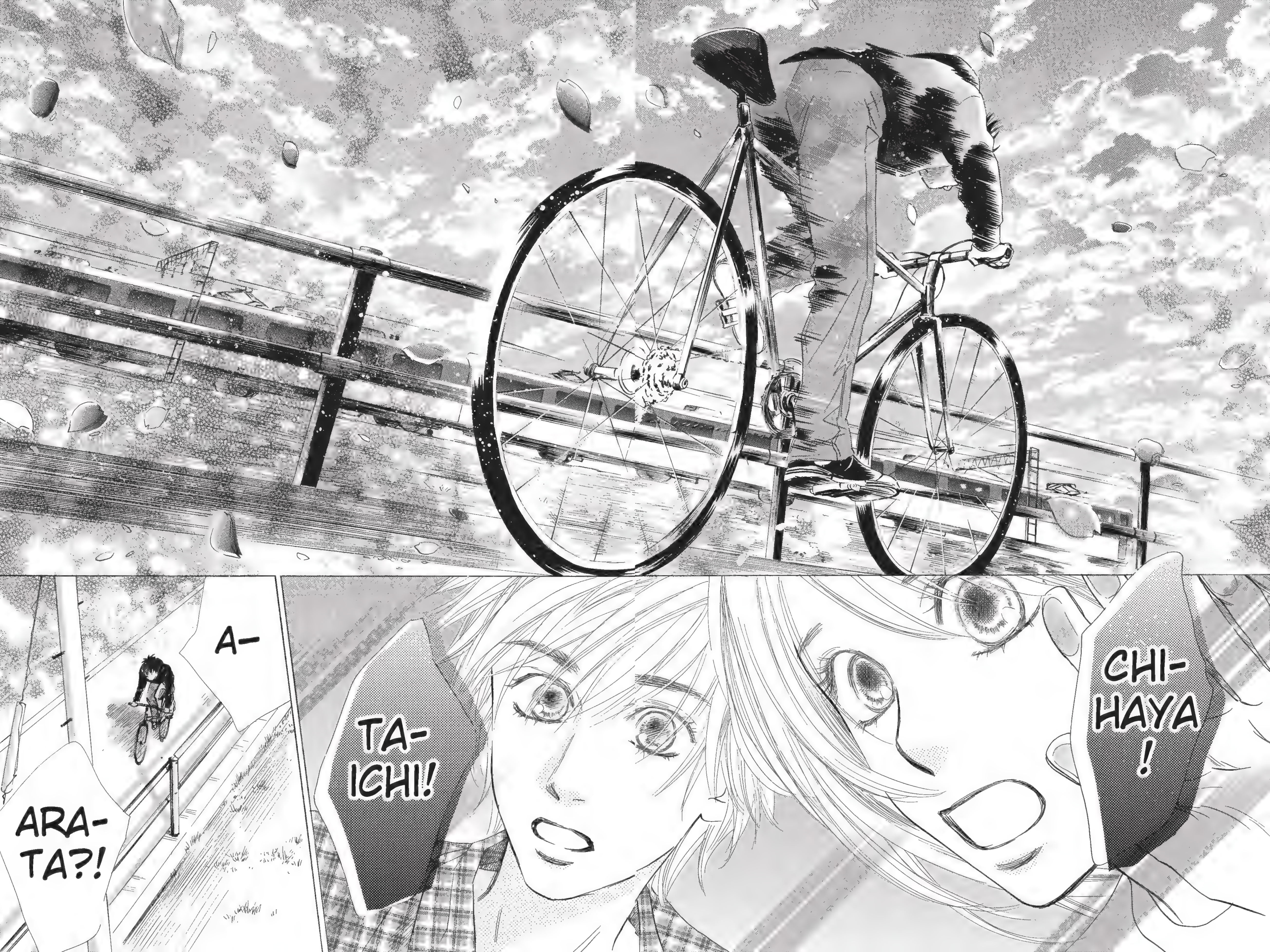

Harada-sensei said to send him a photo of Arata.
原田先生が新の写メ送って言うてた。
Ask if you'll see Arata if you play in the Kyoto tournament.
Ask if my New Year's card arrived. The one with the wrong sign.
今年のわたしの年賀状はちゃんと届いたか聞く。
干支をまちがえたやつ
?
If Arata has a cell phone, make sure to get his number!!
新が携帯持ってたら絶対番号ゲットする!!
重要
IMPORTANT
WHAT'S THIS?
A NOTE?
WHY WOULD SHE USE...

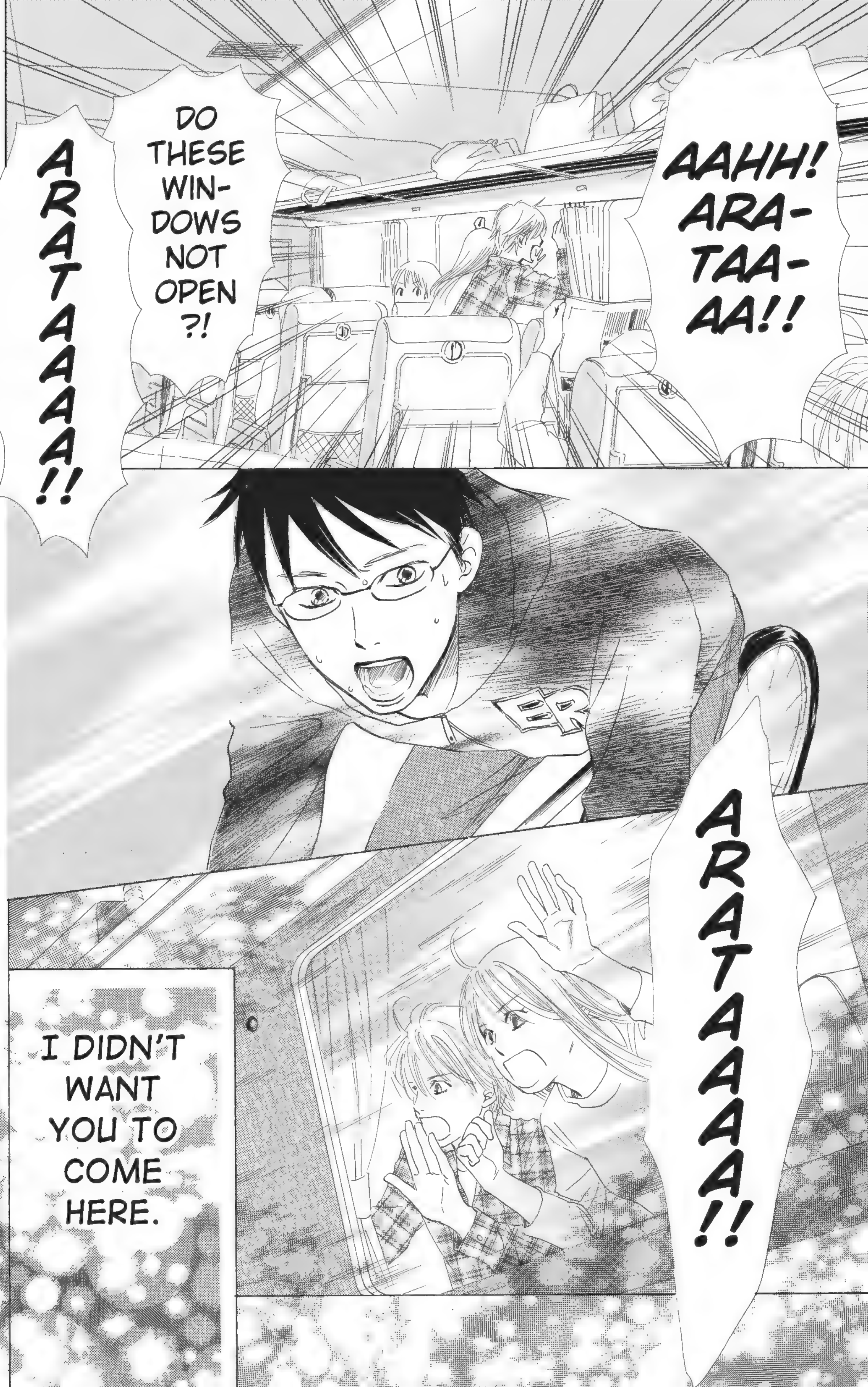

I THINK OF YOU AS LIKE THE GOD OF KARUTA, ARATA.
THE MORE THAT I CAN'T MEET YOU, THE MORE LIKE A GOD YOU SEEM TO BE.

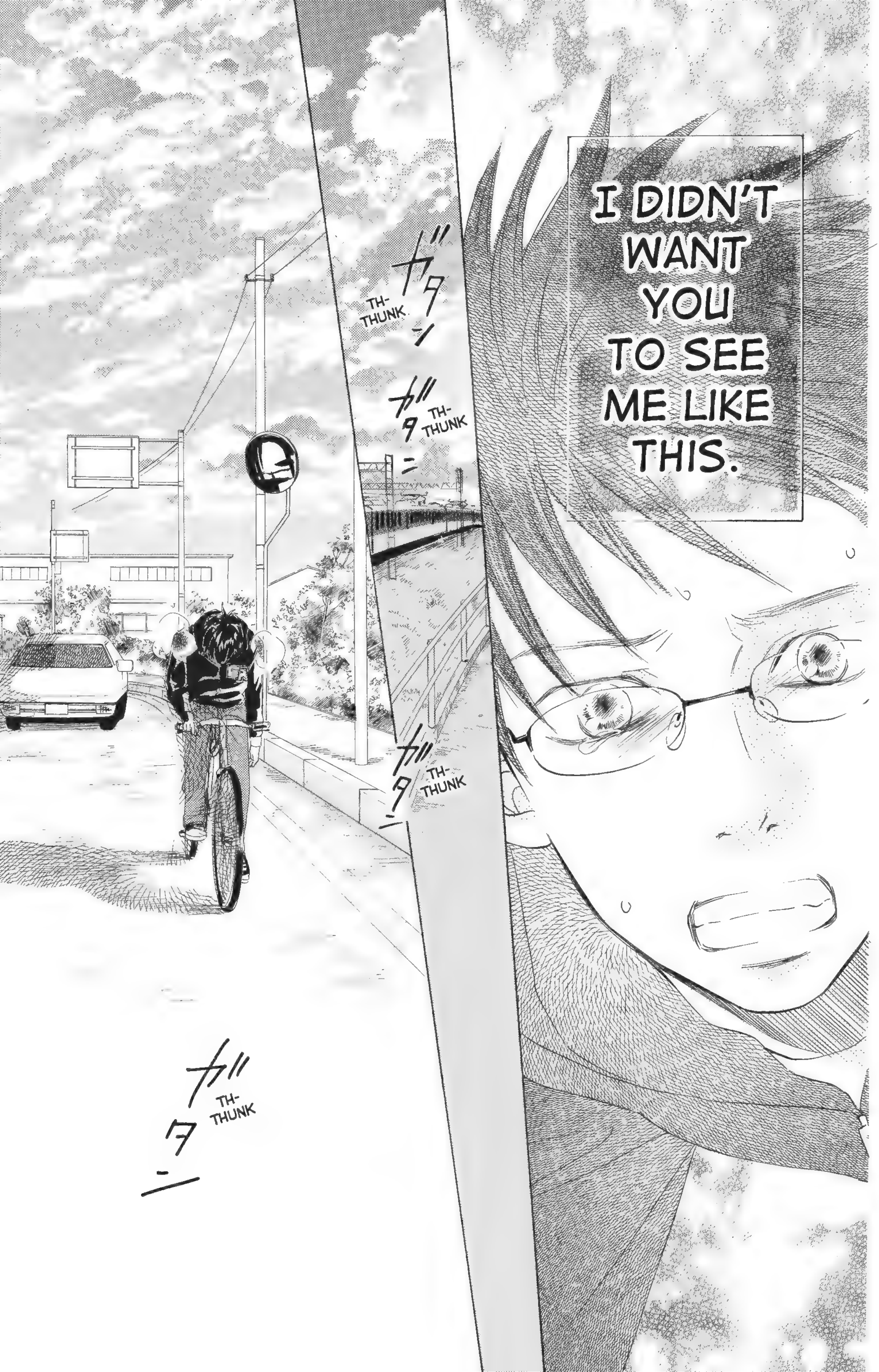

...
ARA-TA!
LET'S KEEP MEETING AND PLAYING KARUTA!

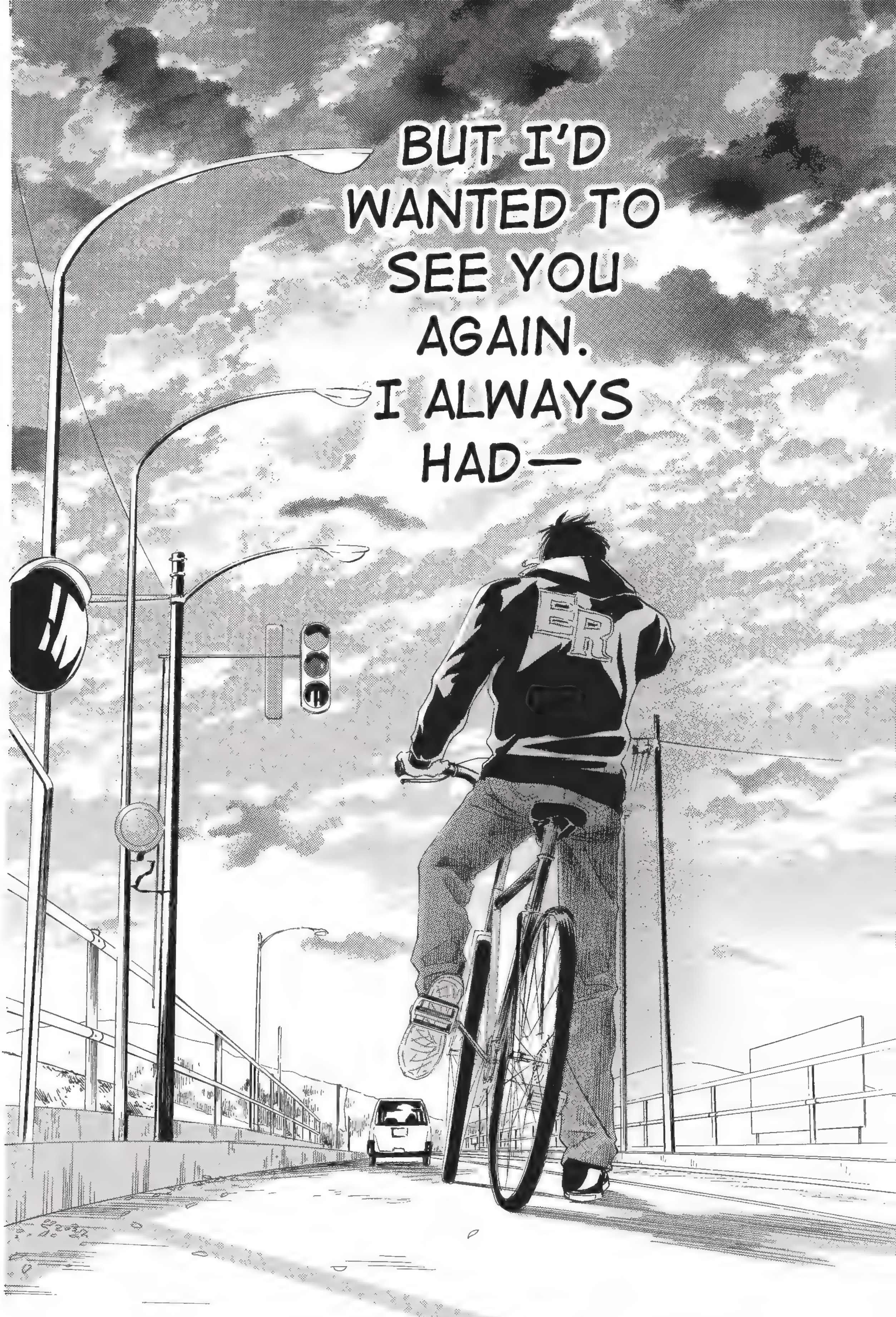

I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR GOD.
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
芦原温泉駅
でろ FLOP
CHIHAYA. TRAINS ARE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.
でろ FLOP
でろ FLOP
YOU NEED TO ACT LIKE A HUMAN, NOT AN OCTOPUS.
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE...
I'M SORRY, TAICHI...
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO MEET HIM...

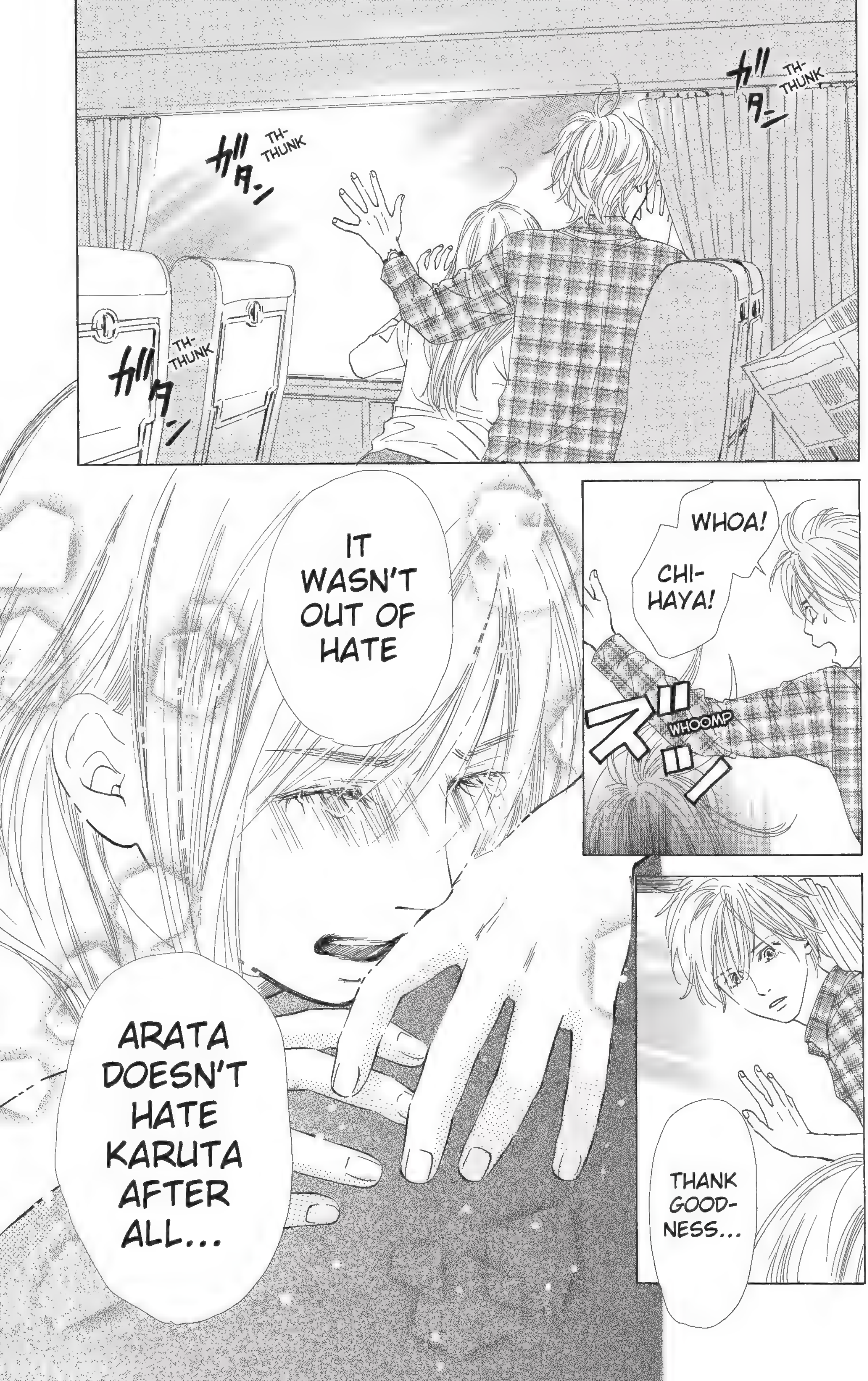

プルルルル
PRRR-RING
EXPRESS TRAIN TO NAGOYA. DOORS ARE CLOSING.
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
CHI-HAYA?

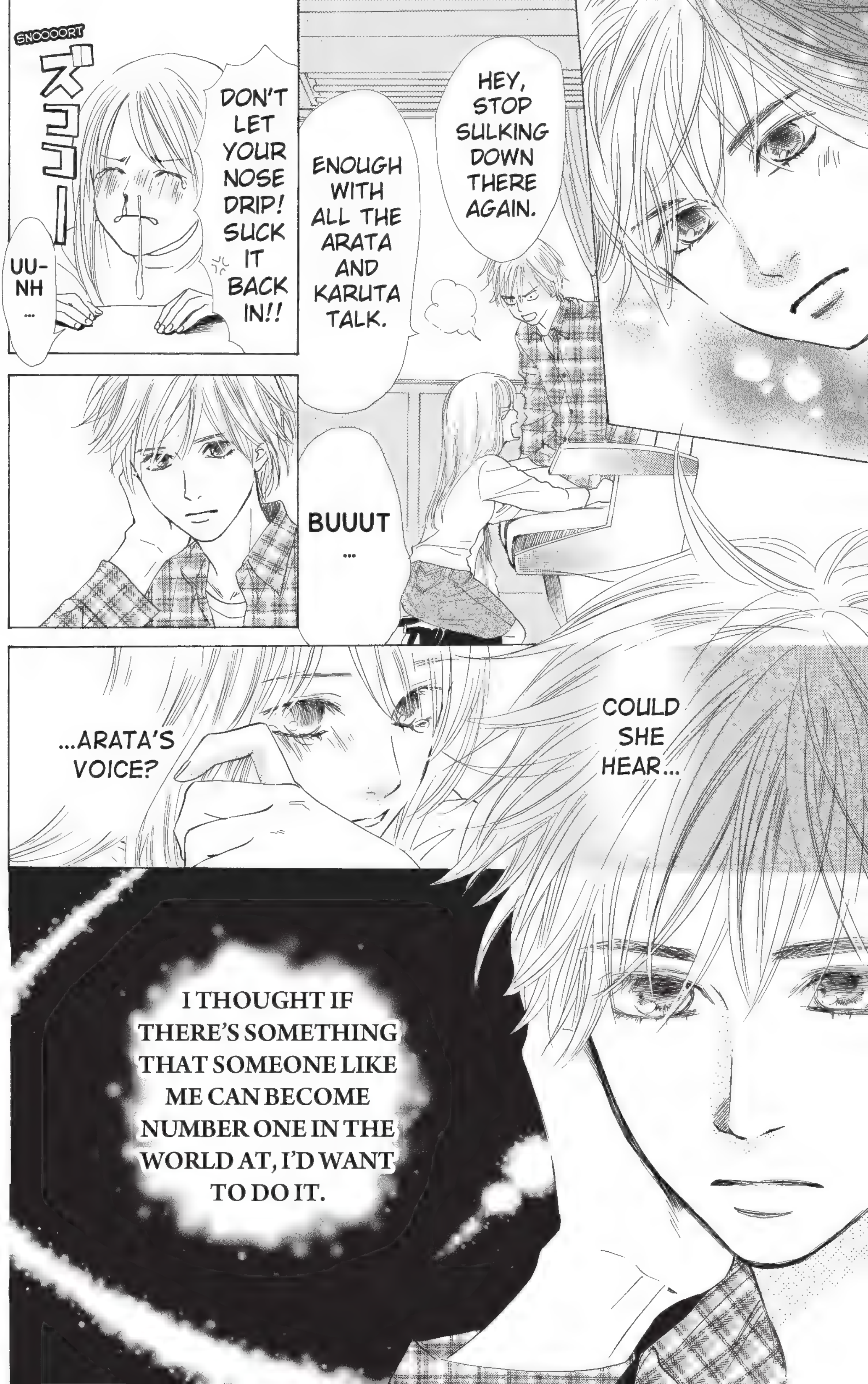

CHI-HAYA!
TA-ICHI!
A-
ARA-TA?!

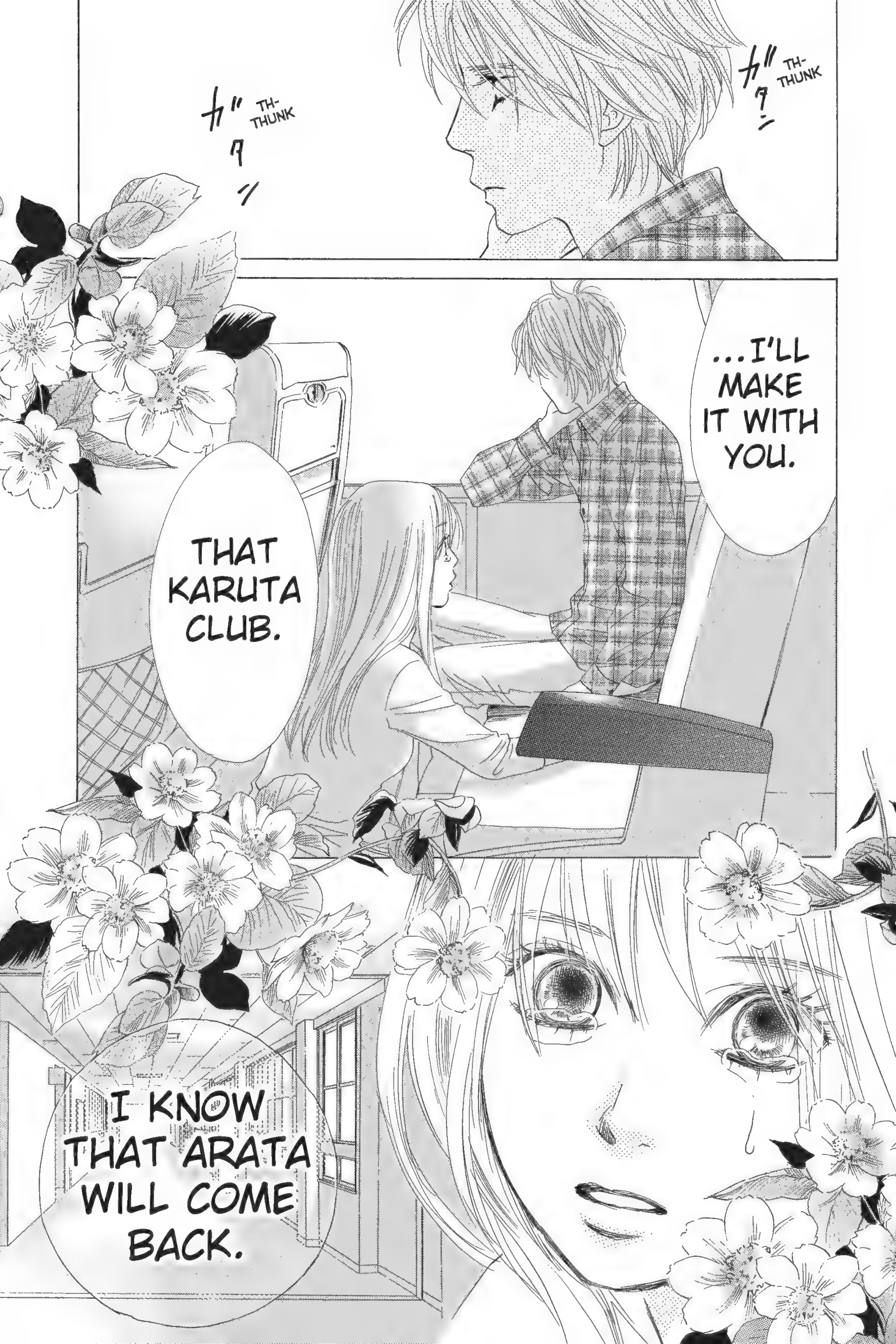

AAHH! ARATAAAAA!!
DO THESE WINDOWS NOT OPEN?!
ARATAAAAA!!
ARATAAAAA!!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO COME HERE.

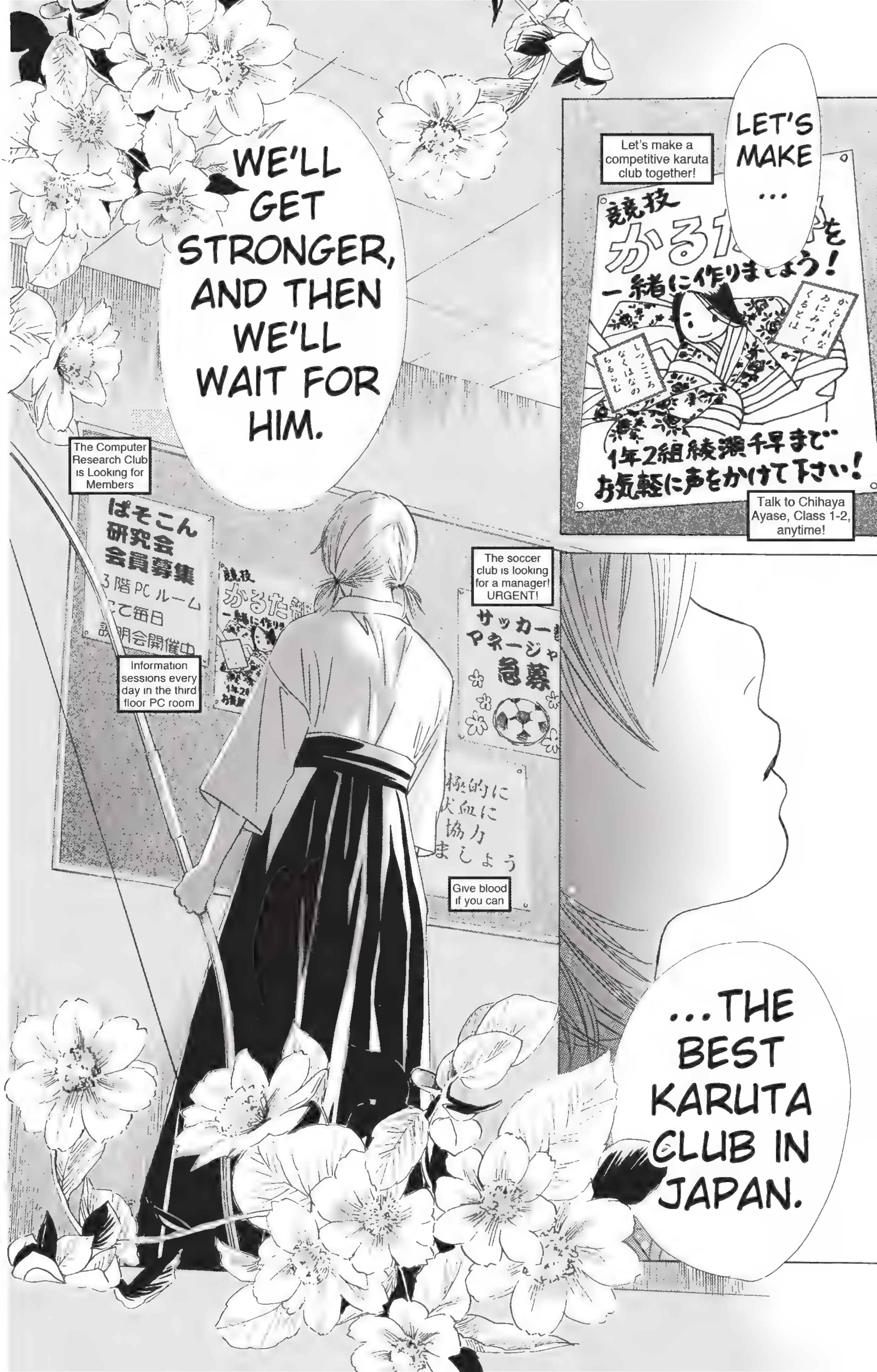

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK

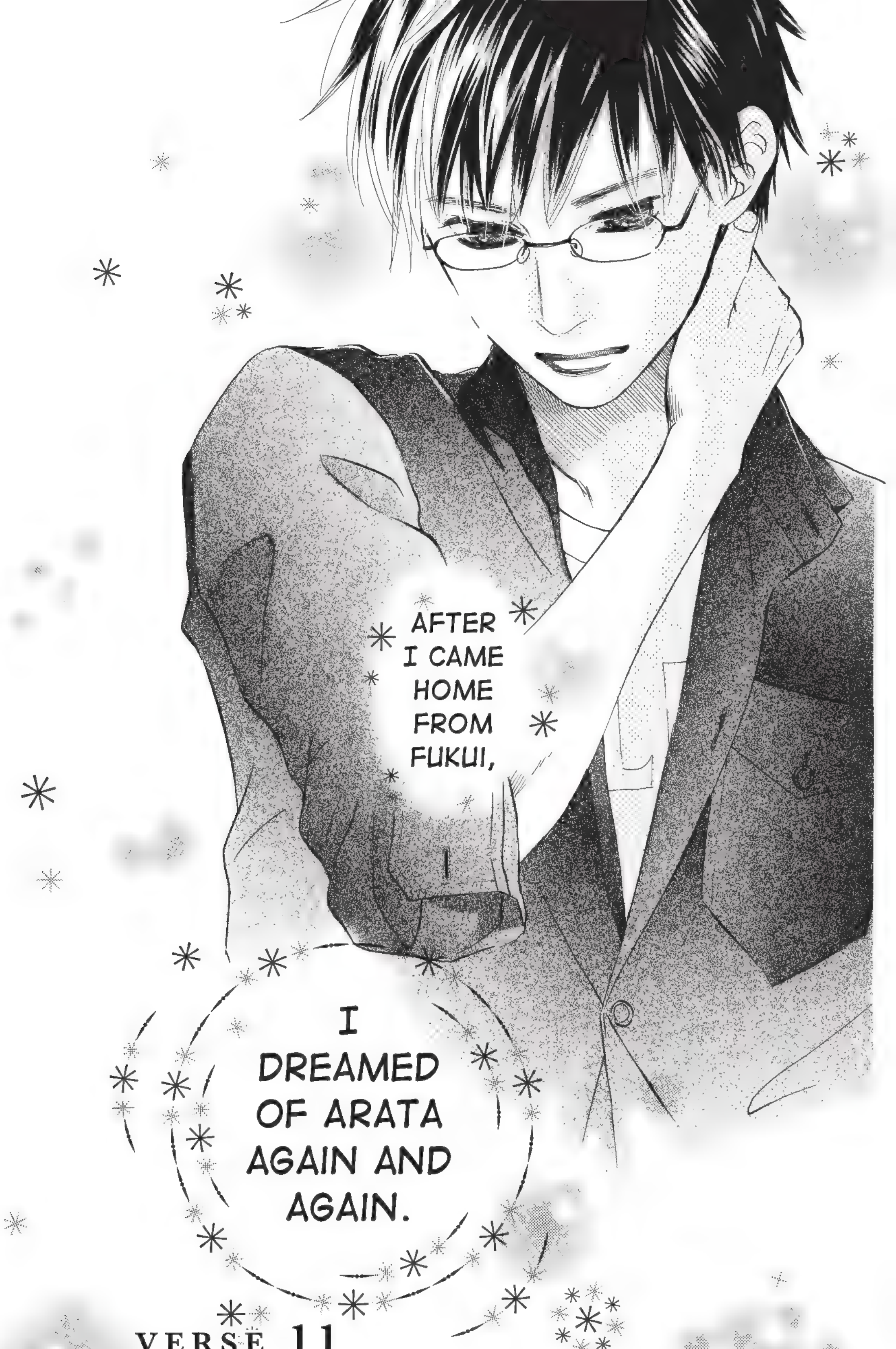

BUT I'D WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I ALWAYS HAD—
ER


ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
WHOA!
CHI-HAYA!
ズン
WHOOMP
IT WASN'T OUT OF HATE
ARATA DOESN'T HATE KARUTA AFTER ALL...
THANK GOODNESS...


HEY, STOP SULKING DOWN THERE AGAIN.
ENOUGH WITH ALL THE ARATA AND KARUTA TALK.
BUUUT…
DON'T LET YOUR NOSE DRIP! SUCK IT BACK IN!!
SNOOOORT
ズココー
UU-NH…
COULD SHE HEAR…
…ARATA'S VOICE?
I THOUGHT IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN BECOME NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD AT, I'D WANT TO DO IT.

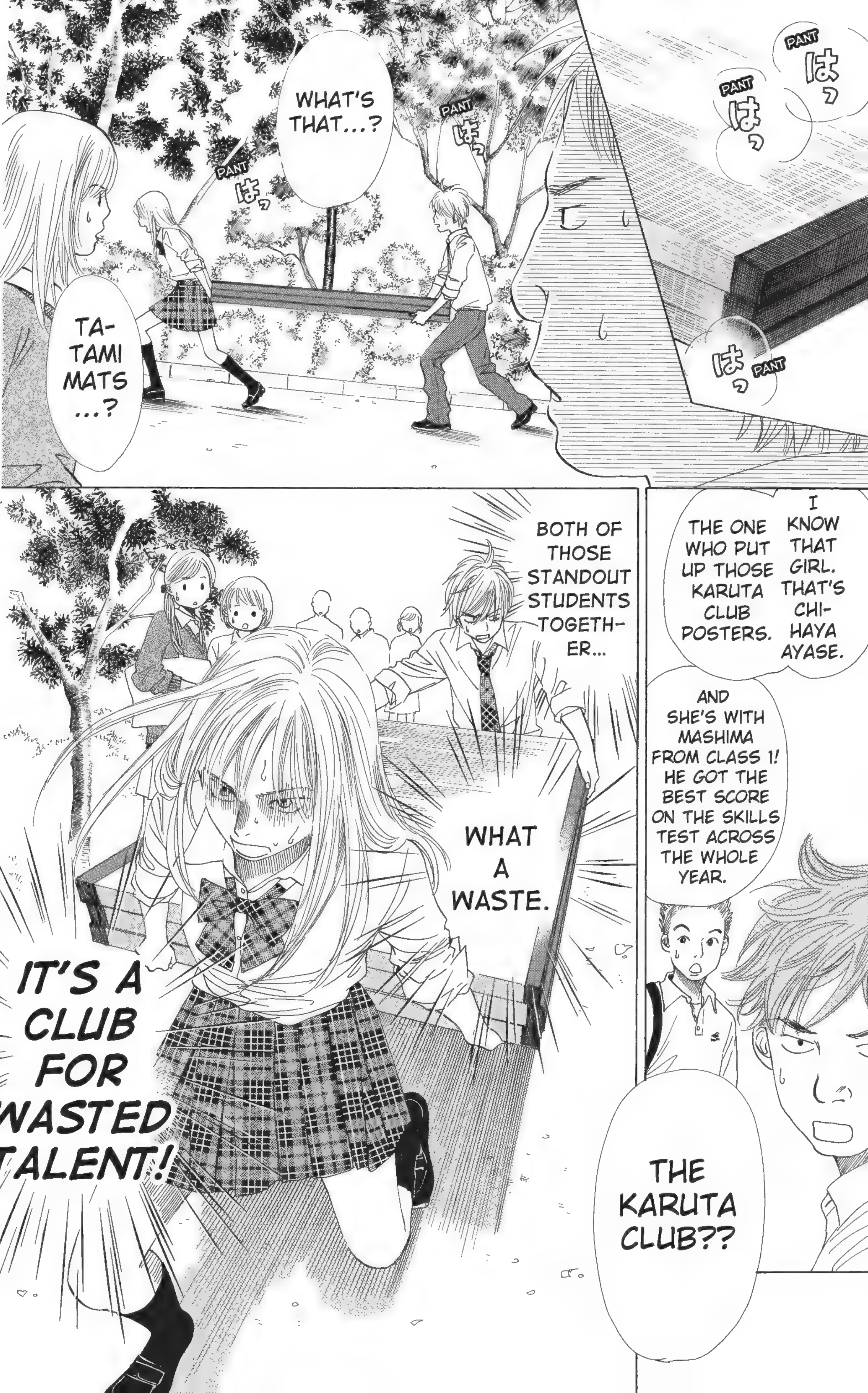

ガタン
TH-THUNK
ガタン
TH-THUNK
...I'LL MAKE IT WITH YOU.
THAT KARUTA CLUB.
I KNOW THAT ARATA WILL COME BACK.

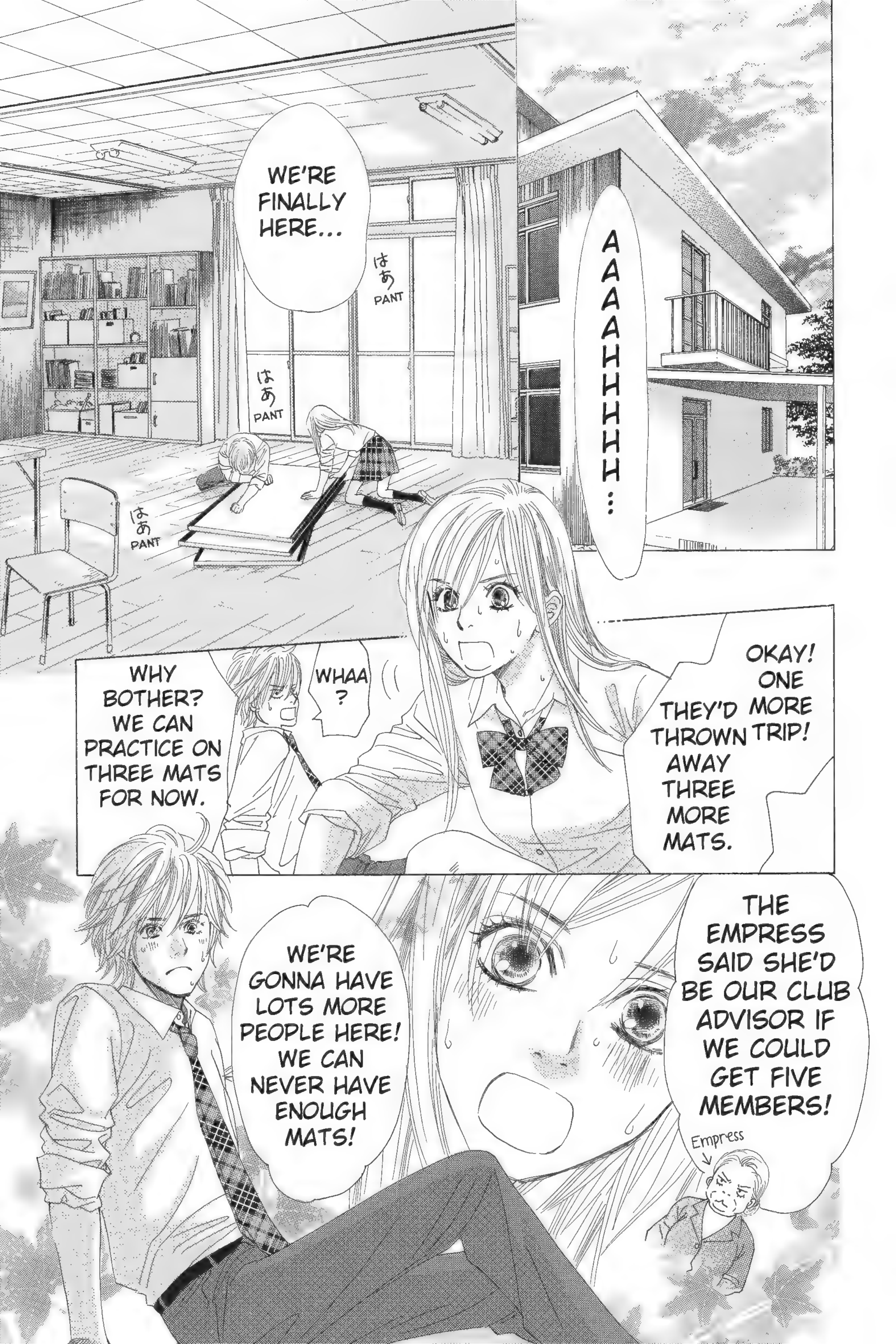

LET'S MAKE ...
Let's make a competitive karuta club together!
競技 かる　を 一緒に作りましょう！
からくれな ゐにみづく くるとは
しつこころ なくはなの ちるらむ
1年2組綾瀬千早まで お気軽に声をかけて下さい！
Talk to Chihaya Ayase, Class 1-2, anytime!
WE'LL GET STRONGER, AND THEN WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM.
The Computer Research Club is Looking for Members
ぱそこん 研究会 会員募集 3階PCルーム にて毎日 説明会開催中
Information sessions every day in the third floor PC room
競技 かるた
The soccer club is looking for a manager! URGENT!
サッカー マネージャ 急募
極的に 献血に 協力 ましょう
Give blood if you can
...THE BEST KARUTA CLUB IN JAPAN.

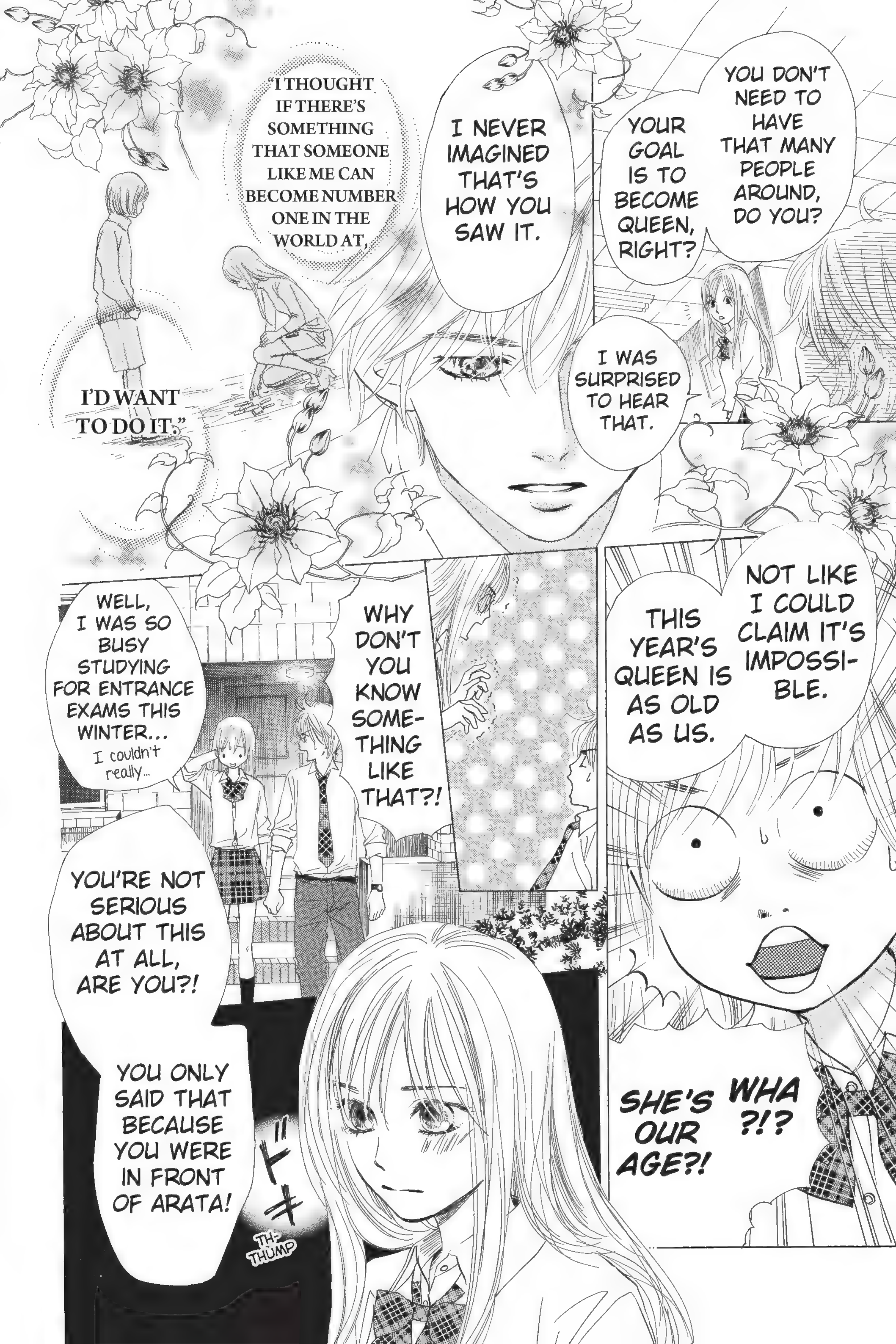

AFTER I CAME HOME FROM FUKUI,
I DREAMED OF ARATA AGAIN AND AGAIN.

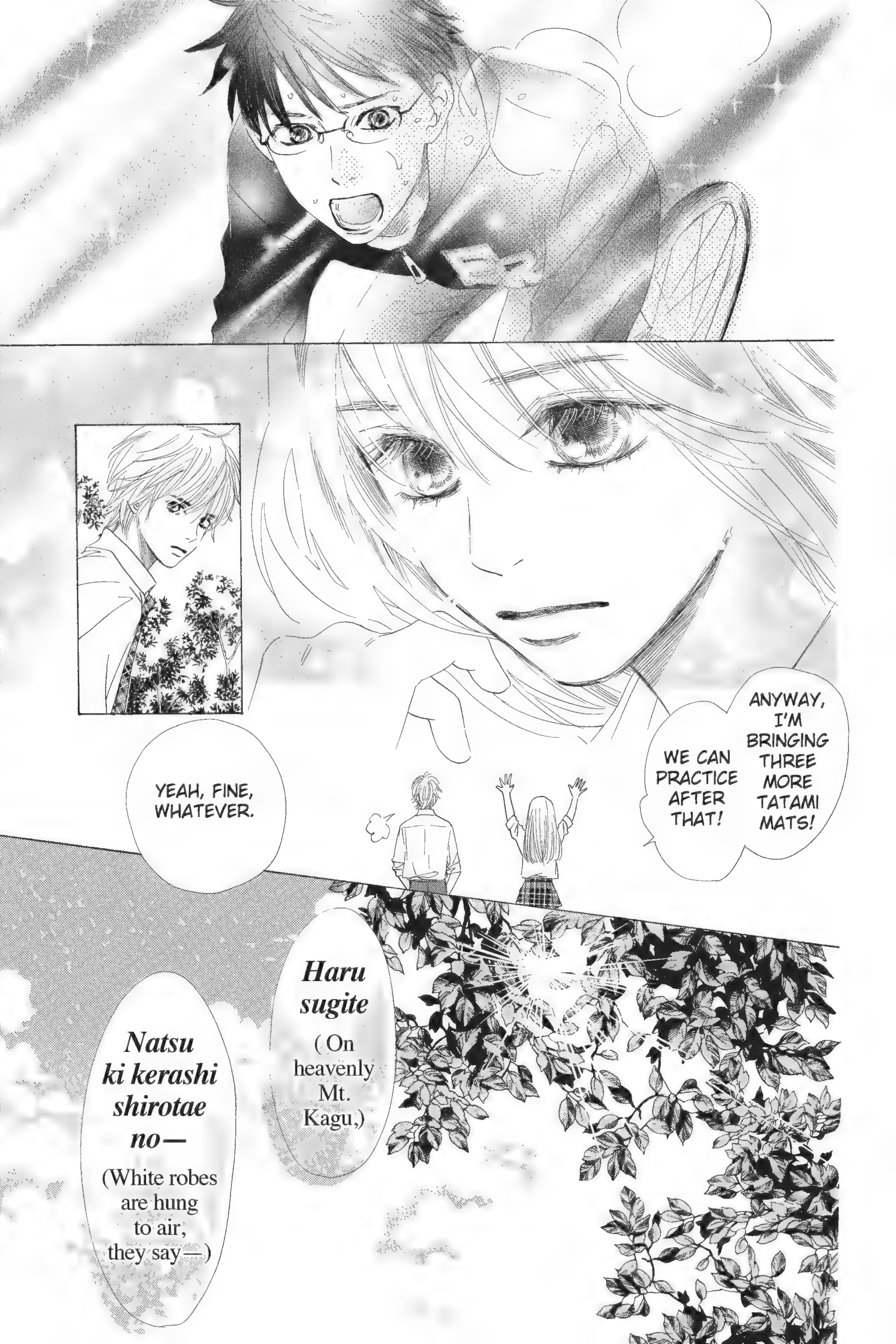
VERSE 11

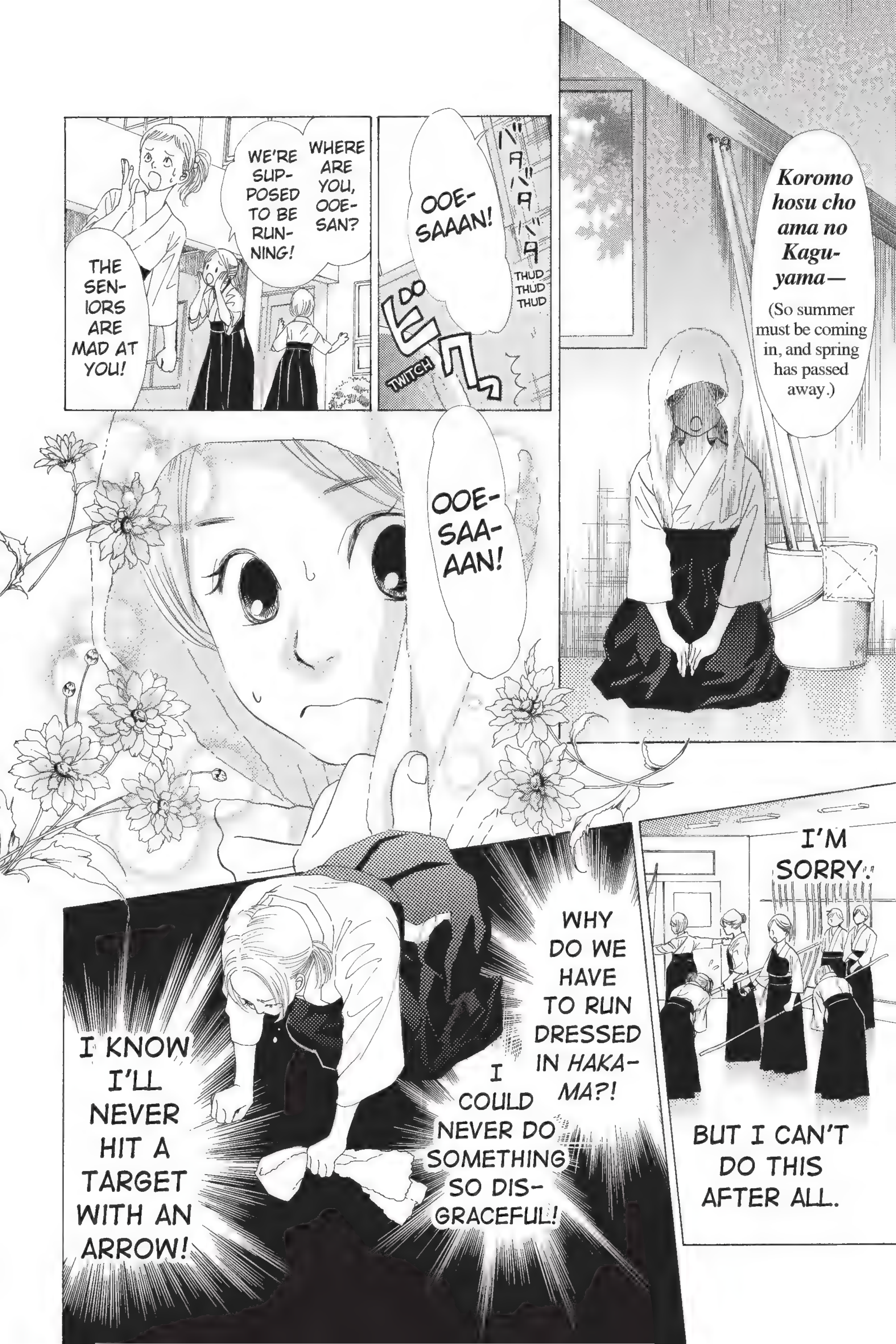
Chihayafuru

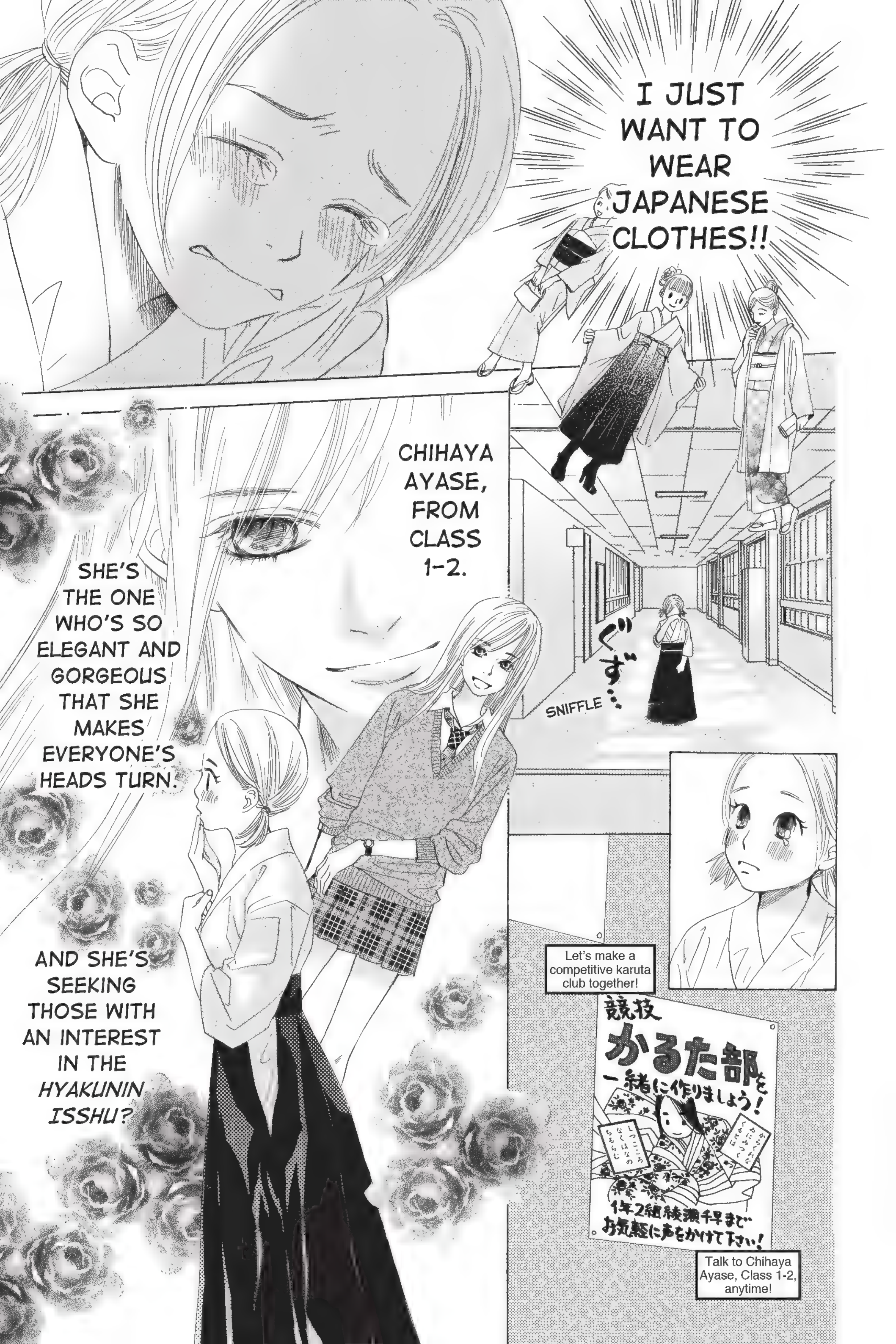

PANT はっ
PANT はっ
PANT はっ
PANT はっ
WHAT'S THAT...?
PANT はっ
TATAMI MATS...?
I KNOW THAT GIRL. THAT'S CHIHAYA AYASE.
THE ONE WHO PUT UP THOSE KARUTA CLUB POSTERS.
AND SHE'S WITH MASHIMA FROM CLASS 1! HE GOT THE BEST SCORE ON THE SKILLS TEST ACROSS THE WHOLE YEAR.
THE KARUTA CLUB??
BOTH OF THOSE STANDOUT STUDENTS TOGETHER...
WHAT A WASTE.
IT'S A CLUB FOR WASTED TALENT!

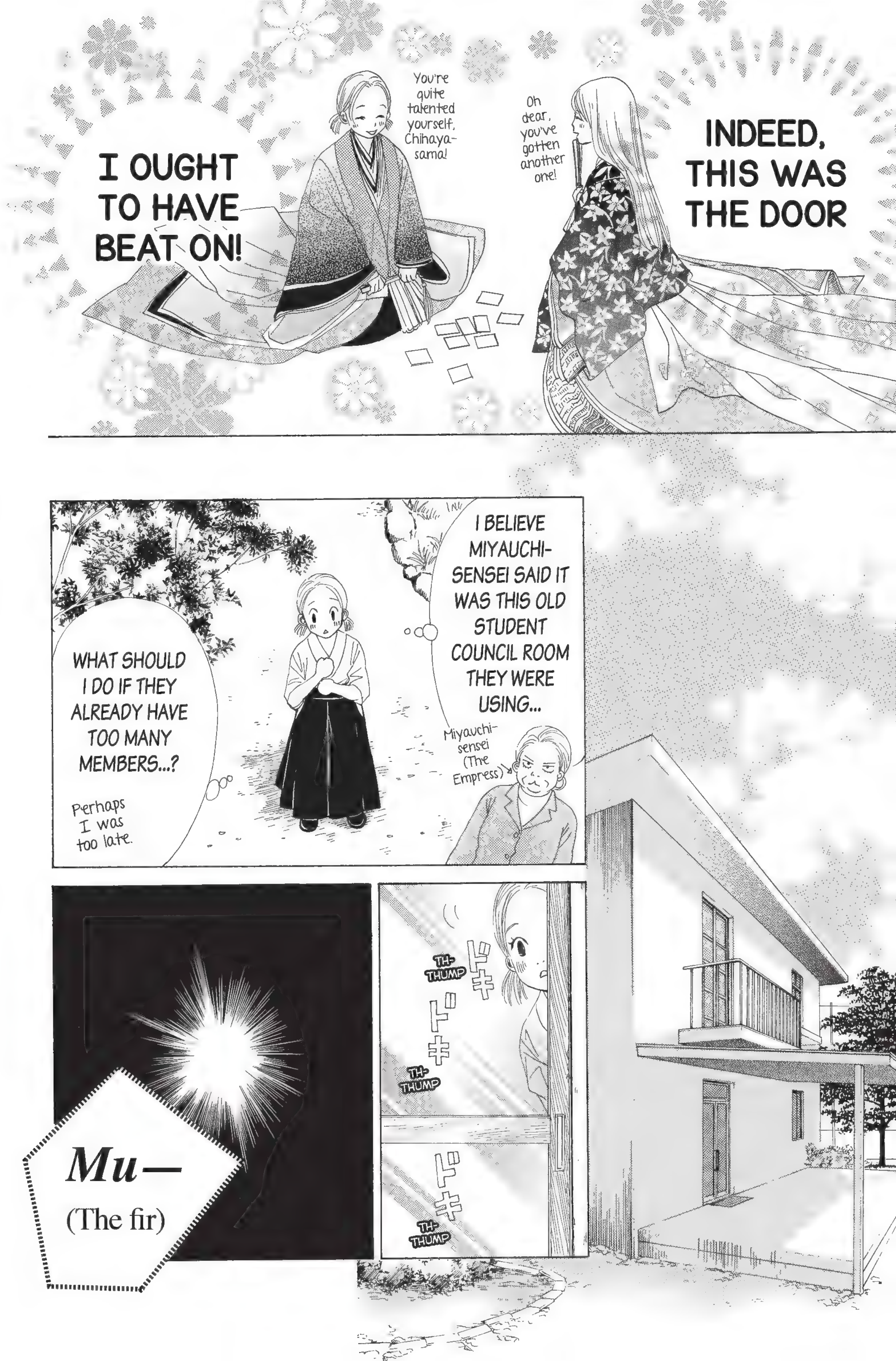

AAAAHHHHH…
WE'RE FINALLY HERE…
はあ PANT
はあ PANT
はあ PANT
OKAY! ONE MORE TRIP!
THEY'D THROWN AWAY THREE MORE MATS.
WHAA?
WHY BOTHER? WE CAN PRACTICE ON THREE MATS FOR NOW.
THE EMPRESS SAID SHE'D BE OUR CLUB ADVISOR IF WE COULD GET FIVE MEMBERS!
Empress
WE'RE GONNA HAVE LOTS MORE PEOPLE HERE! WE CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH MATS!

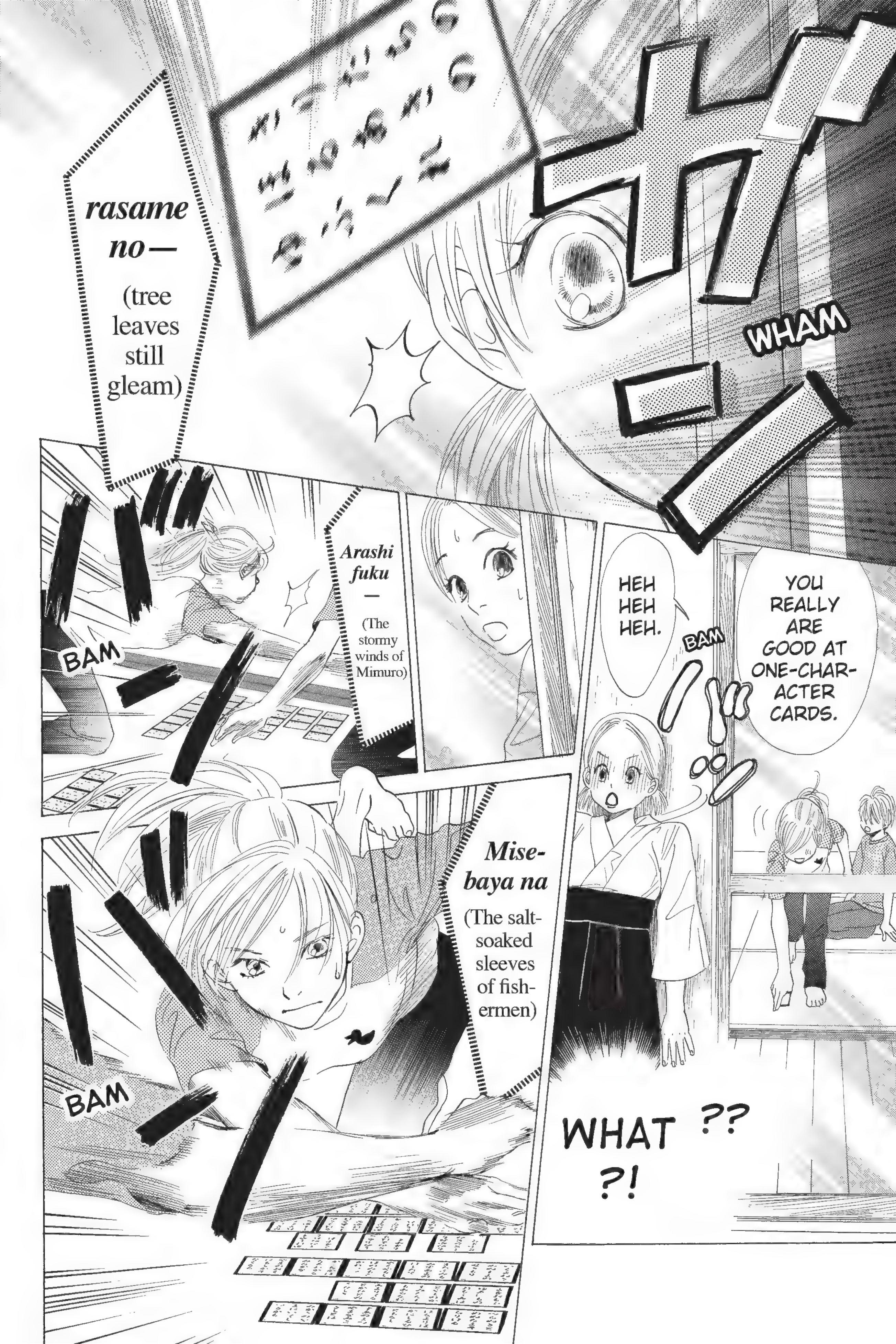

YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE THAT MANY PEOPLE AROUND, DO YOU?
YOUR GOAL IS TO BECOME QUEEN, RIGHT?
I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT.
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT'S HOW YOU SAW IT.
"I THOUGHT IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN BECOME NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD AT,
I'D WANT TO DO IT."
NOT LIKE I COULD CLAIM IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THIS YEAR'S QUEEN IS AS OLD AS US.
WHA?!?
SHE'S ONLY OUR AGE?!
WHY DON'T YOU KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
WELL, I WAS SO BUSY STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS THIS WINTER...
I couldn't really...
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT THIS AT ALL, ARE YOU?!
YOU ONLY SAID THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE IN FRONT OF ARATA!
ドキ
TH-THUMP

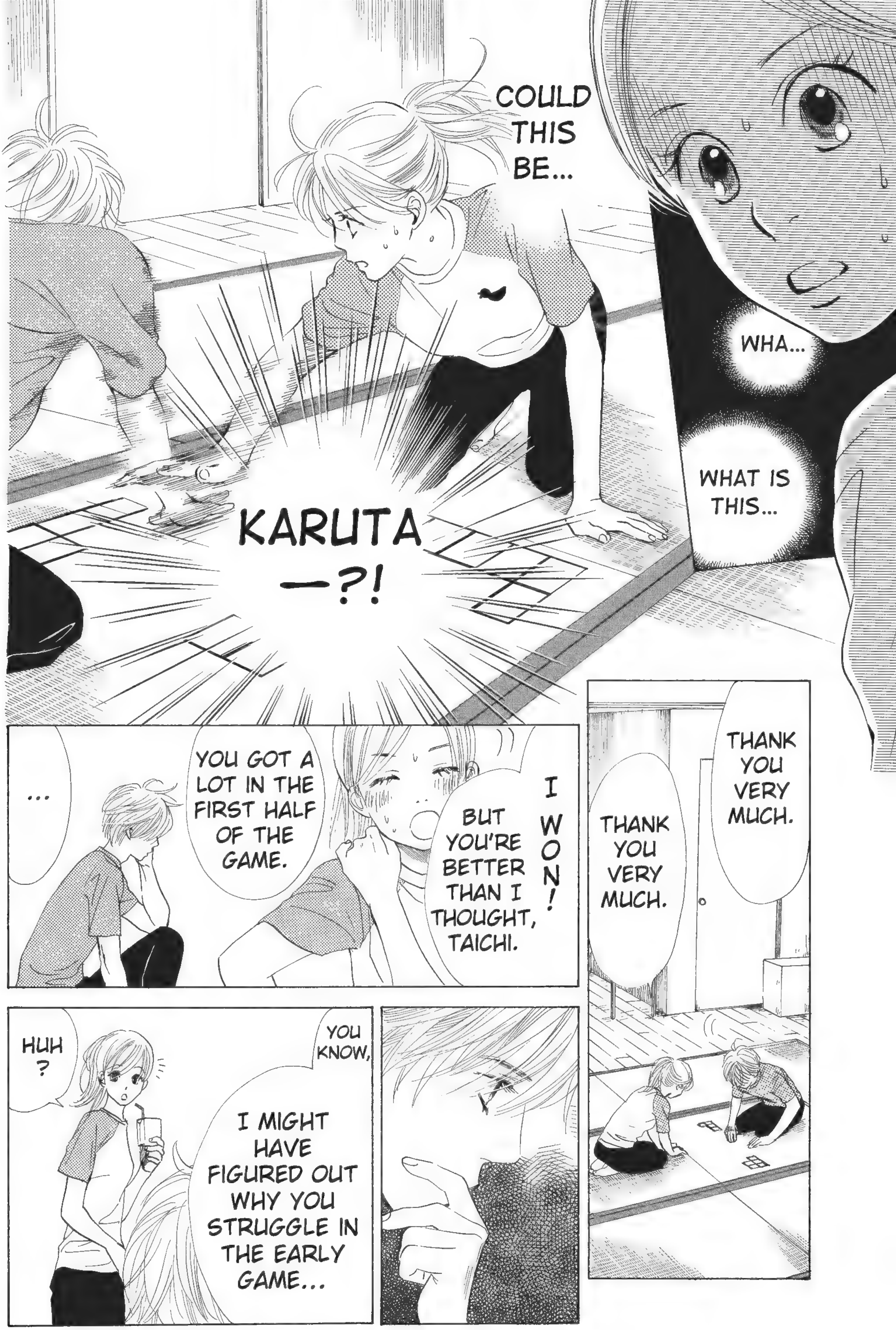

ANYWAY, I'M BRINGING THREE MORE TATAMI MATS!
WE CAN PRACTICE AFTER THAT!
YEAH, FINE, WHATEVER.
Haru sugite (On heavenly Mt. Kagu,)
Natsu ki kerashi shirotae no— (White robes are hung to air, they say—)

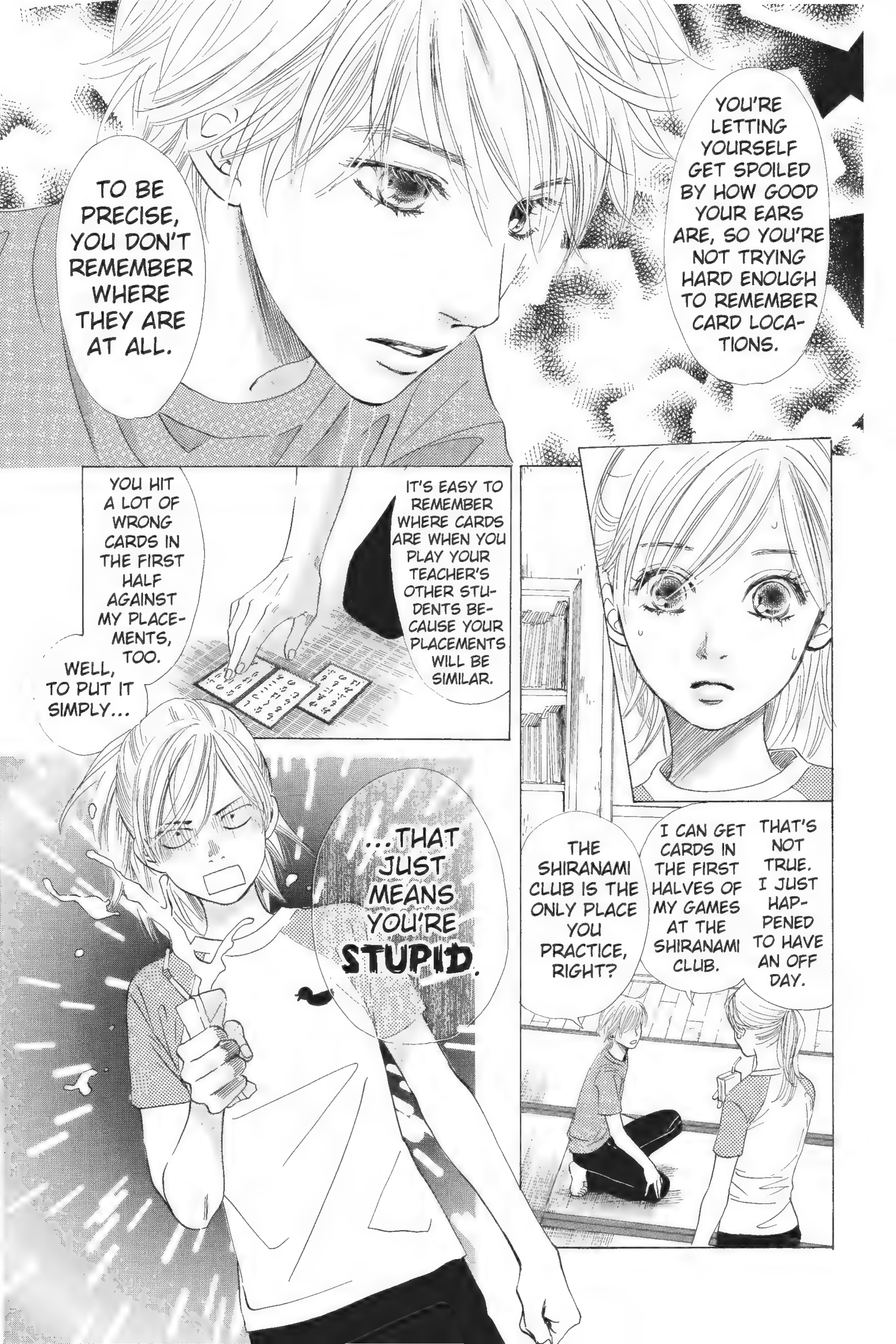

Koromo hosu cho ama no Kaguyama—
(So summer must be coming in, and spring has passed away.)
バタバタバタ
THUD THUD THUD
OOE-SAAAN!
ピクッ
DO
TWITCH
WHERE ARE YOU, OOE-SAN?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING!
THE SENIORS ARE MAD AT YOU!
OOE-SAA-AAN!
I'M SORRY.
BUT I CAN'T DO THIS AFTER ALL.
WHY DO WE HAVE TO RUN DRESSED IN *HAKAMA*?!
I COULD NEVER DO SOMETHING SO DISGRACEFUL!
I KNOW I'LL NEVER HIT A TARGET WITH AN ARROW!

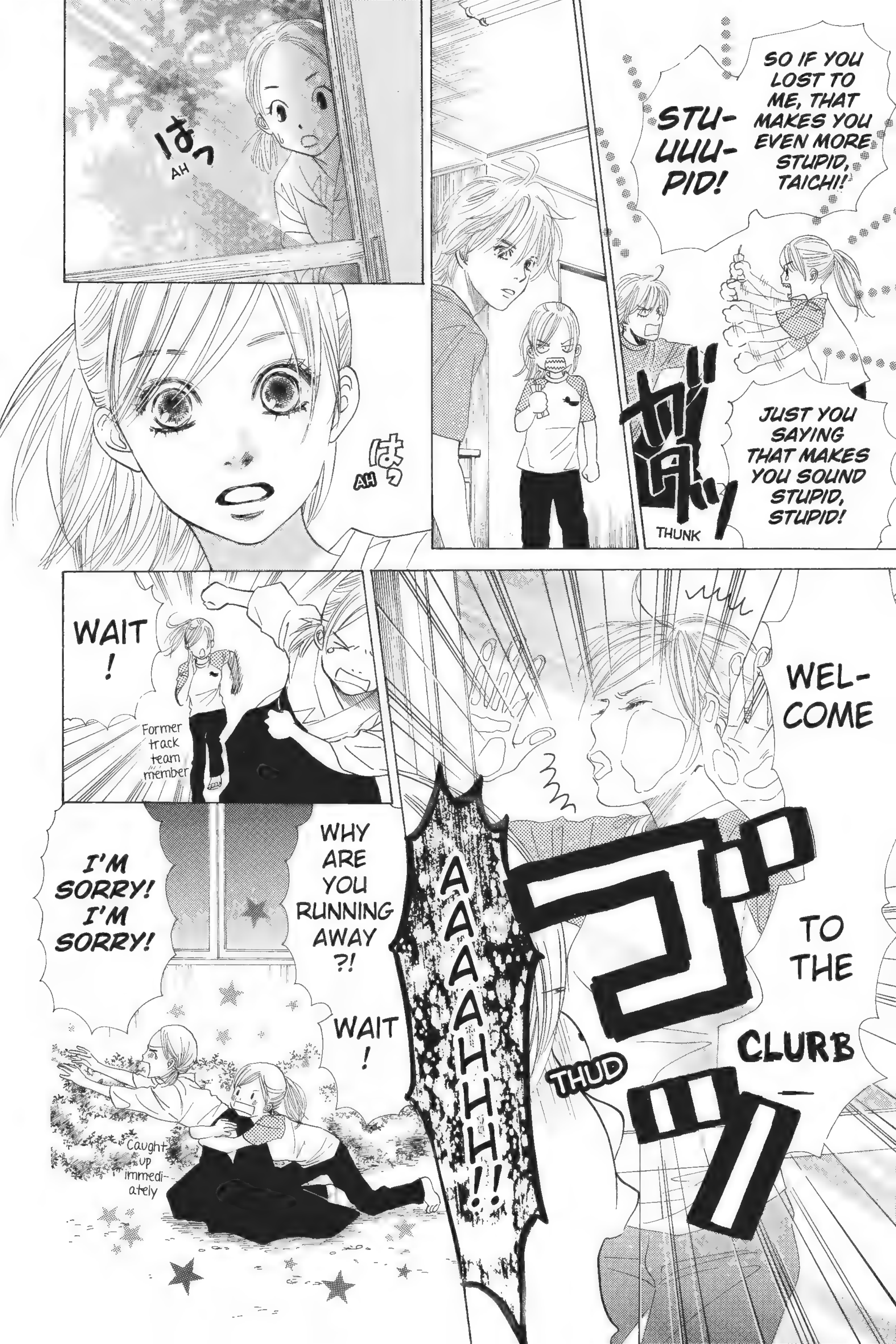

I JUST WANT TO WEAR JAPANESE CLOTHES!!
CHIHAYA AYASE, FROM CLASS 1-2.
SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S SO ELEGANT AND GORGEOUS THAT SHE MAKES EVERYONE'S HEADS TURN.
AND SHE'S SEEKING THOSE WITH AN INTEREST IN THE *HYAKUNIN ISSHU*?
ぐず…
SNIFFLE
競技 かるた部を 一緒に作りましょう！
Let's make a competitive karuta club together!
1年2組綾瀬千早まで お気軽に声をかけて下さい！
Talk to Chihaya Ayase, Class 1-2, anytime!

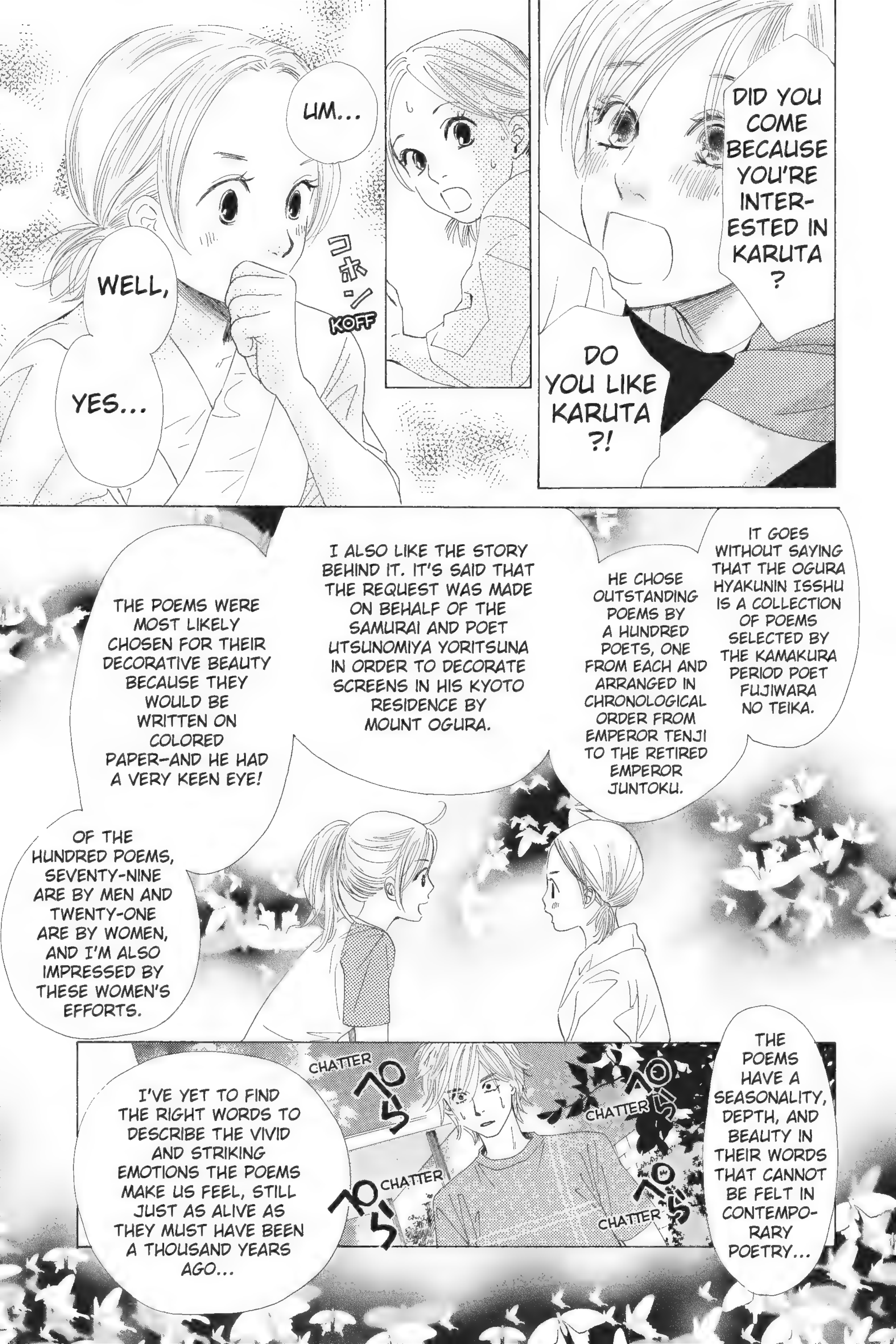

INDEED, THIS WAS THE DOOR
Oh dear, you've gotten another one!
You're quite talented yourself, Chihaya-sama!
I OUGHT TO HAVE BEAT ON!
I BELIEVE MIYAUCHI-SENSEI SAID IT WAS THIS OLD STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM THEY WERE USING...
Miyauchi-sensei (The Empress)
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THEY ALREADY HAVE TOO MANY MEMBERS...?
Perhaps I was too late.
ドキ TH-THUMP
ドキ TH-THUMP
ドキ TH-THUMP
Mu—
(The fir)

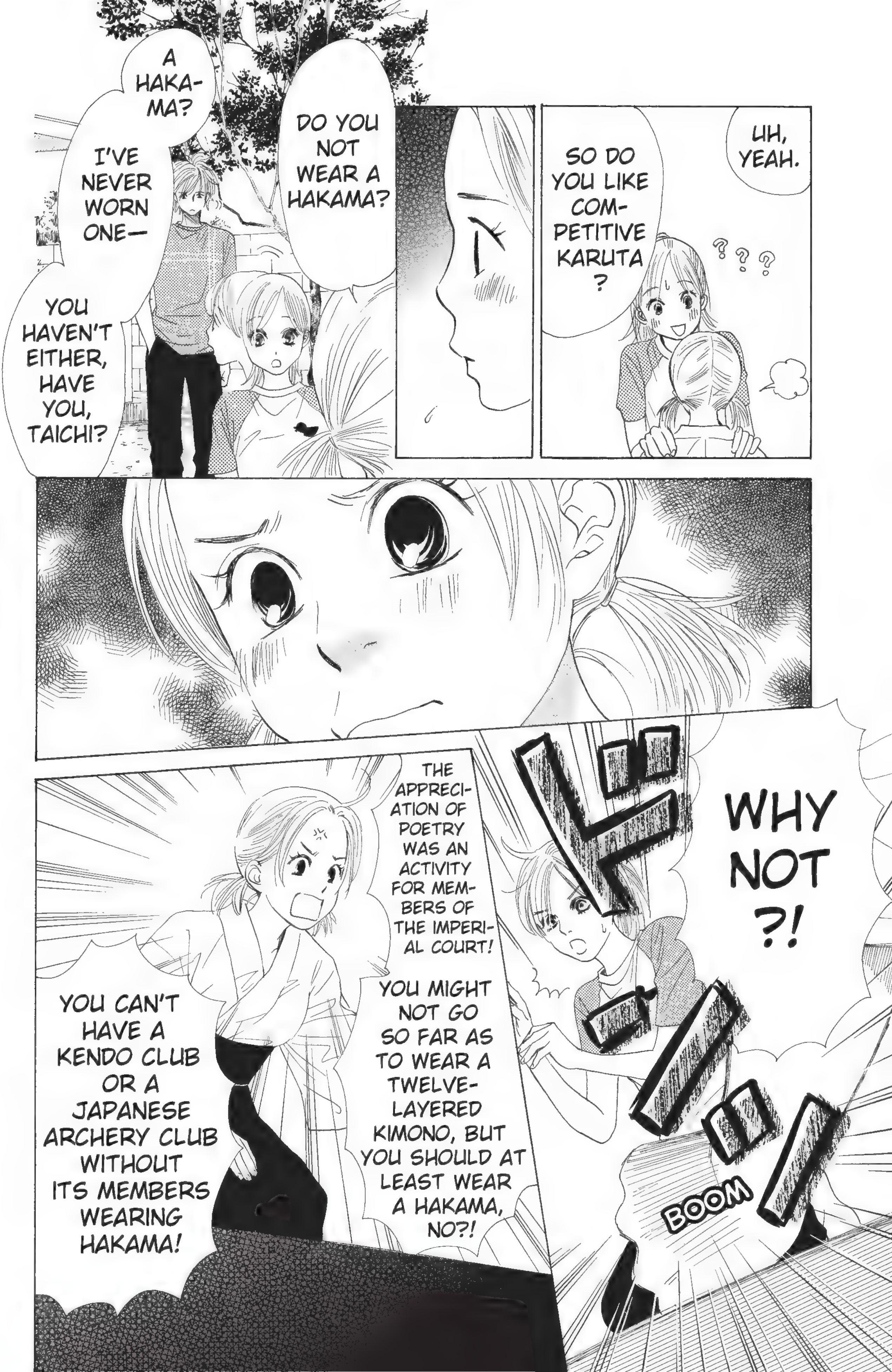

rasame no—
(tree leaves still gleam)
WHAM
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD AT ONE-CHARACTER CARDS.
HEH HEH HEH.
BAM
WHAT ?? ?!
Arashi fuku —
(The stormy winds of Mimuro)
BAM
Mise-baya na
(The salt-soaked sleeves of fishermen)
BAM

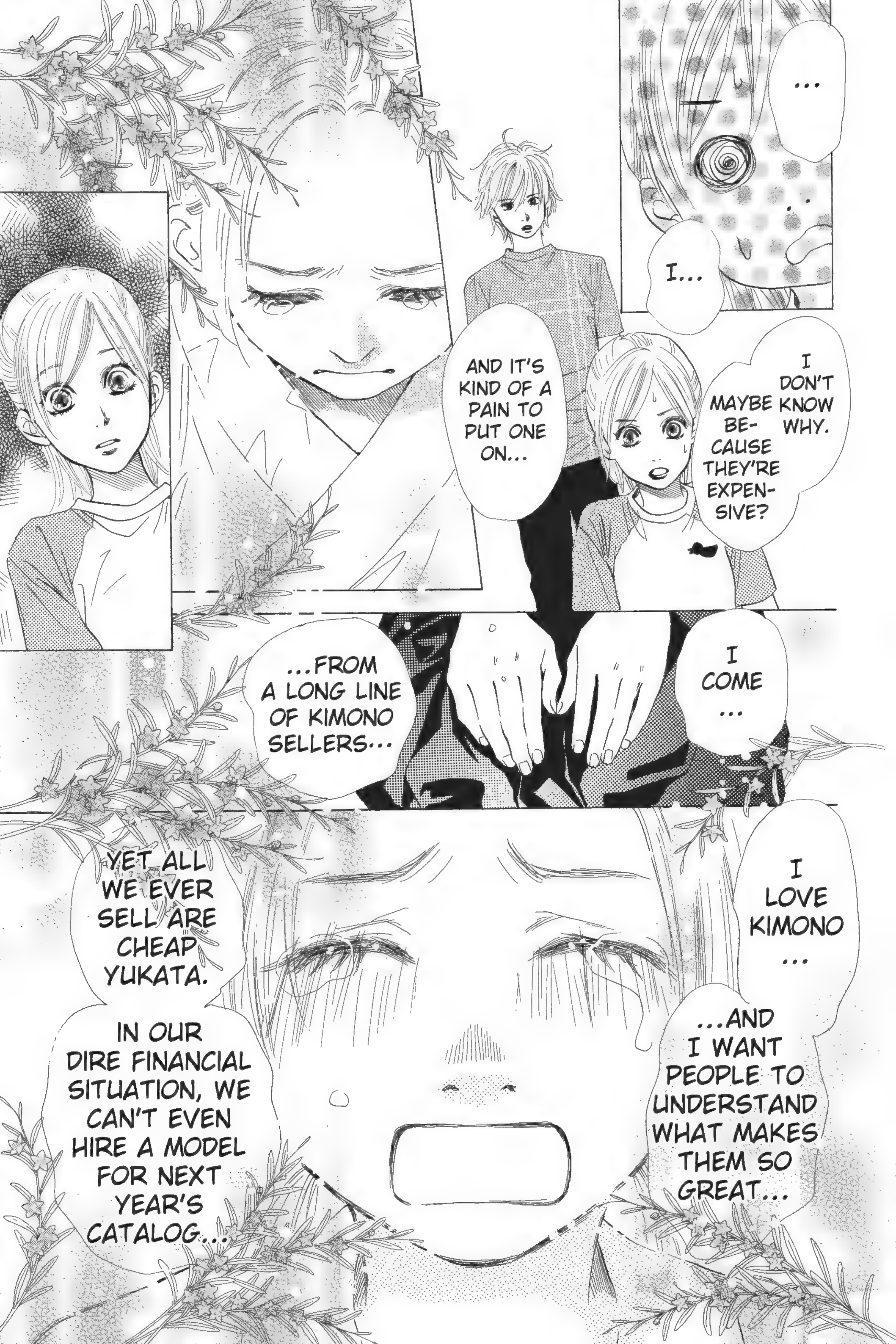

WHA...
WHAT IS THIS...
COULD THIS BE...
KARUTA—?!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I WON!
BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT, TAICHI.
YOU GOT A LOT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE GAME.
...
YOU KNOW,
I MIGHT HAVE FIGURED OUT WHY YOU STRUGGLE IN THE EARLY GAME...
HUH?

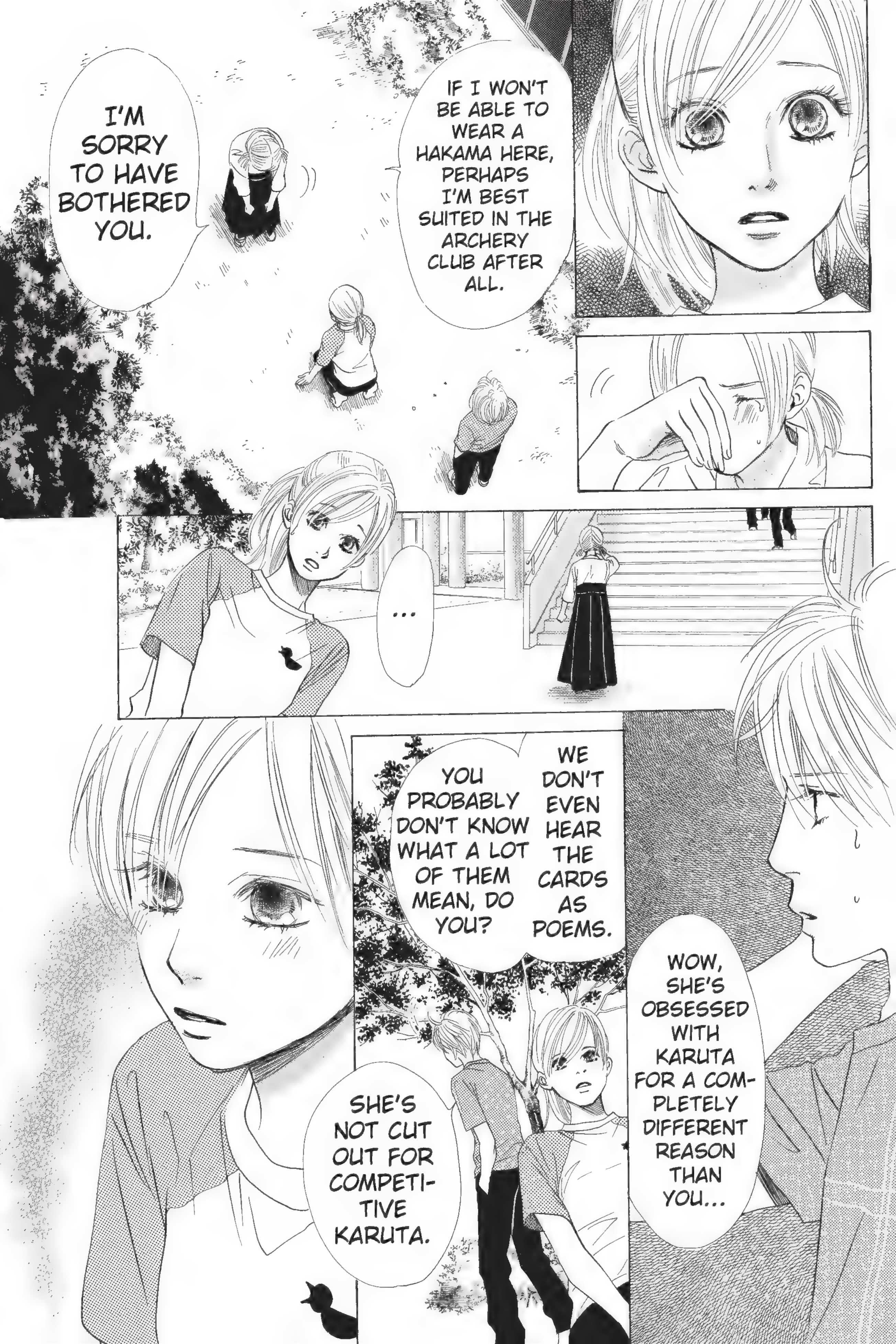

YOU'RE LETTING YOURSELF GET SPOILED BY HOW GOOD YOUR EARS ARE, SO YOU'RE NOT TRYING HARD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER CARD LOCATIONS.
TO BE PRECISE, YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHERE THEY ARE AT ALL.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE AN OFF DAY.
I CAN GET CARDS IN THE FIRST HALVES OF MY GAMES AT THE SHIRANAMI CLUB.
THE SHIRANAMI CLUB IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU PRACTICE, RIGHT?
IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER WHERE CARDS ARE WHEN YOU PLAY YOUR TEACHER'S OTHER STUDENTS BECAUSE YOUR PLACEMENTS WILL BE SIMILAR.
YOU HIT A LOT OF WRONG CARDS IN THE FIRST HALF AGAINST MY PLACEMENTS, TOO.
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY...
...THAT JUST MEANS YOU'RE STUPID.

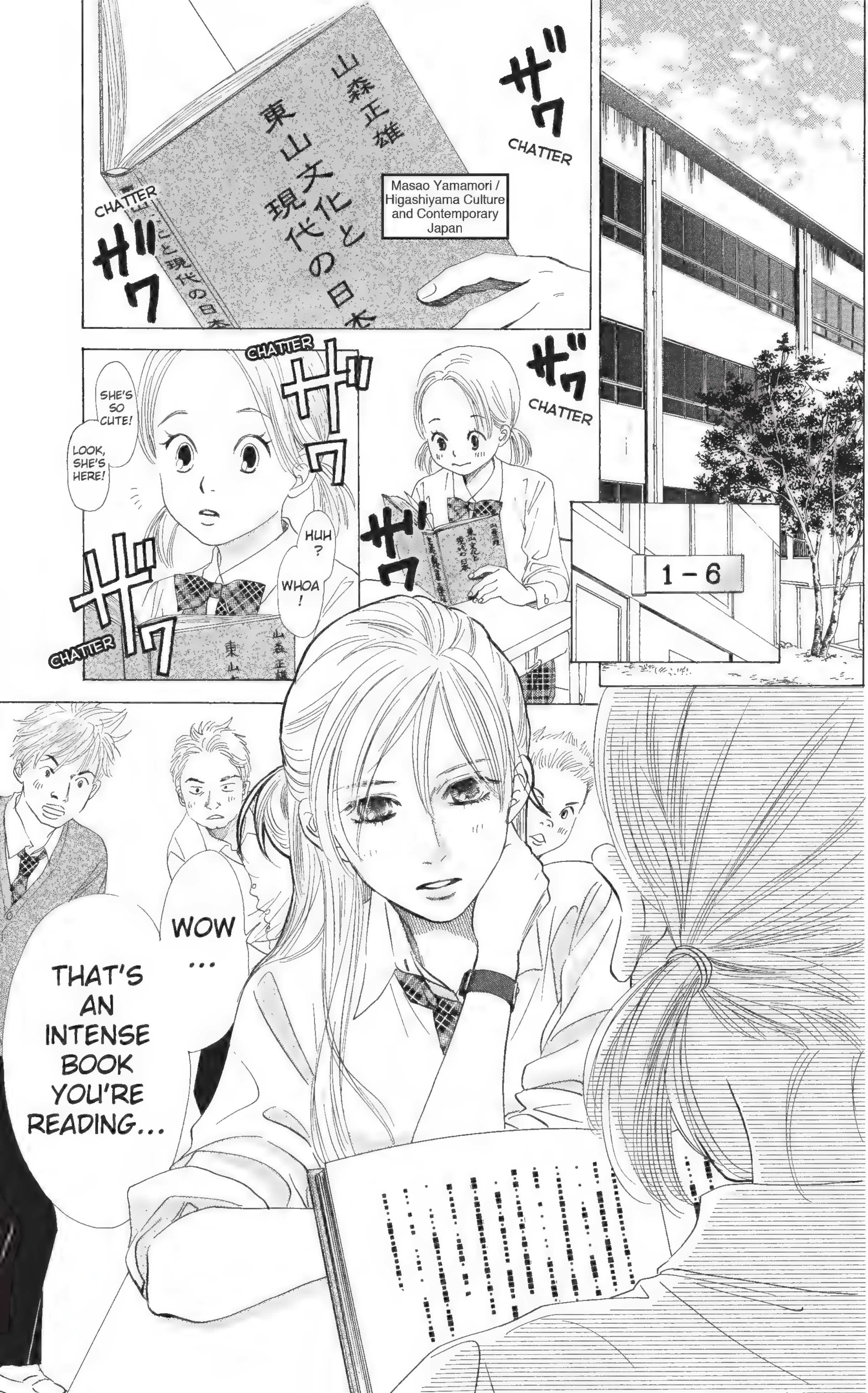

SO IF YOU LOST TO ME, THAT MAKES YOU EVEN MORE STUPID, TAICHI!
STU-UUU-PID!
JUST YOU SAYING THAT MAKES YOU SOUND STUPID, STUPID!
THUNK
はっ
AH
はっ
AH
WELCOME TO THE CLURB
ゴッ
THUD
AAAAHHH!!
WAIT!
Former track team member
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!
WAIT!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
Caught up immediately

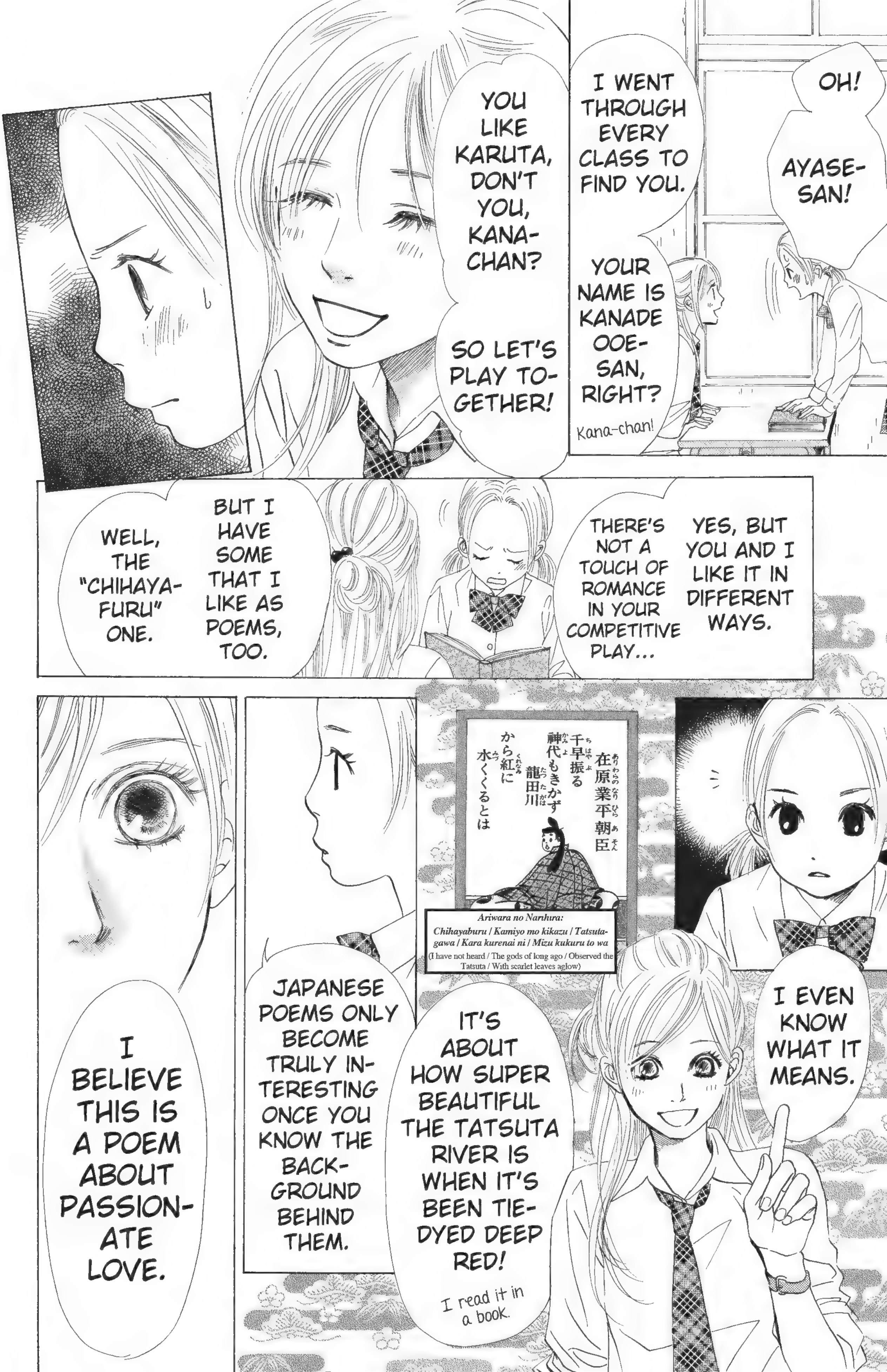

DID YOU COME BECAUSE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN KARUTA?
DO YOU LIKE KARUTA?!
UM...
KOFF
WELL,
YES...
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE OGURA HYAKUNIN ISSHU IS A COLLECTION OF POEMS SELECTED BY THE KAMAKURA PERIOD POET FUJIWARA NO TEIKA.
HE CHOSE OUTSTANDING POEMS BY A HUNDRED POETS, ONE FROM EACH AND ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER FROM EMPEROR TENJI TO THE RETIRED EMPEROR JUNTOKU.
I ALSO LIKE THE STORY BEHIND IT. IT'S SAID THAT THE REQUEST WAS MADE ON BEHALF OF THE SAMURAI AND POET UTSUNOMIYA YORITSUNA IN ORDER TO DECORATE SCREENS IN HIS KYOTO RESIDENCE BY MOUNT OGURA.
THE POEMS WERE MOST LIKELY CHOSEN FOR THEIR DECORATIVE BEAUTY BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE WRITTEN ON COLORED PAPER—AND HE HAD A VERY KEEN EYE!
OF THE HUNDRED POEMS, SEVENTY-NINE ARE BY MEN AND TWENTY-ONE ARE BY WOMEN, AND I'M ALSO IMPRESSED BY THESE WOMEN'S EFFORTS.
THE POEMS HAVE A SEASONALITY, DEPTH, AND BEAUTY IN THEIR WORDS THAT CANNOT BE FELT IN CONTEMPORARY POETRY...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
I'VE YET TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE VIVID AND STRIKING EMOTIONS THE POEMS MAKE US FEEL, STILL JUST AS ALIVE AS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

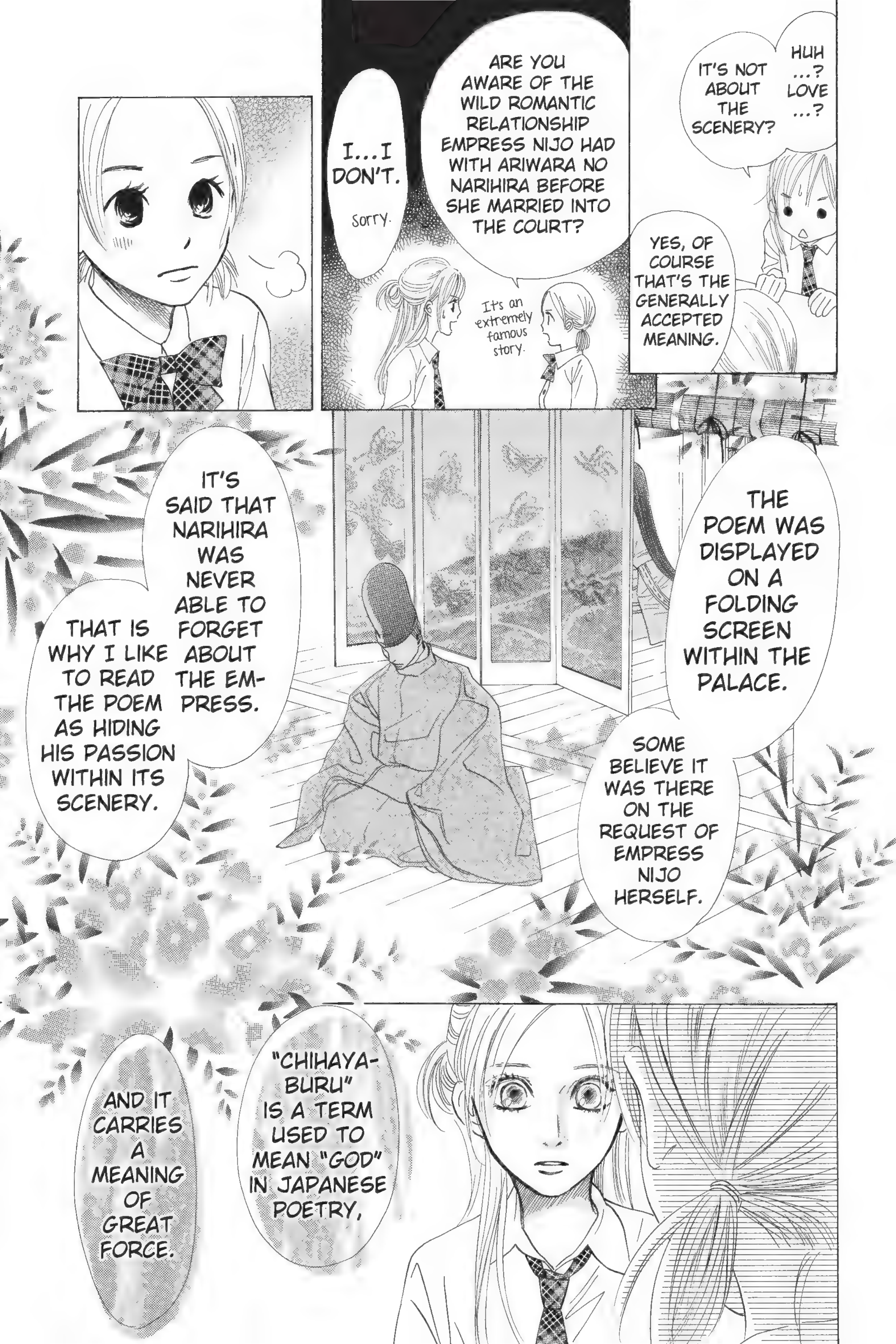

UH, YEAH.
SO DO YOU LIKE COMPETITIVE KARUTA?
???
DO YOU NOT WEAR A HAKAMA?
A HAKAMA?
I'VE NEVER WORN ONE—
YOU HAVEN'T EITHER, HAVE YOU, TAICHI?
WHY NOT?!
BOOM
THE APPRECIATION OF POETRY WAS AN ACTIVITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT!
YOU MIGHT NOT GO SO FAR AS TO WEAR A TWELVE-LAYERED KIMONO, BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST WEAR A HAKAMA, NO?!
YOU CAN'T HAVE A KENDO CLUB OR A JAPANESE ARCHERY CLUB WITHOUT ITS MEMBERS WEARING HAKAMA!

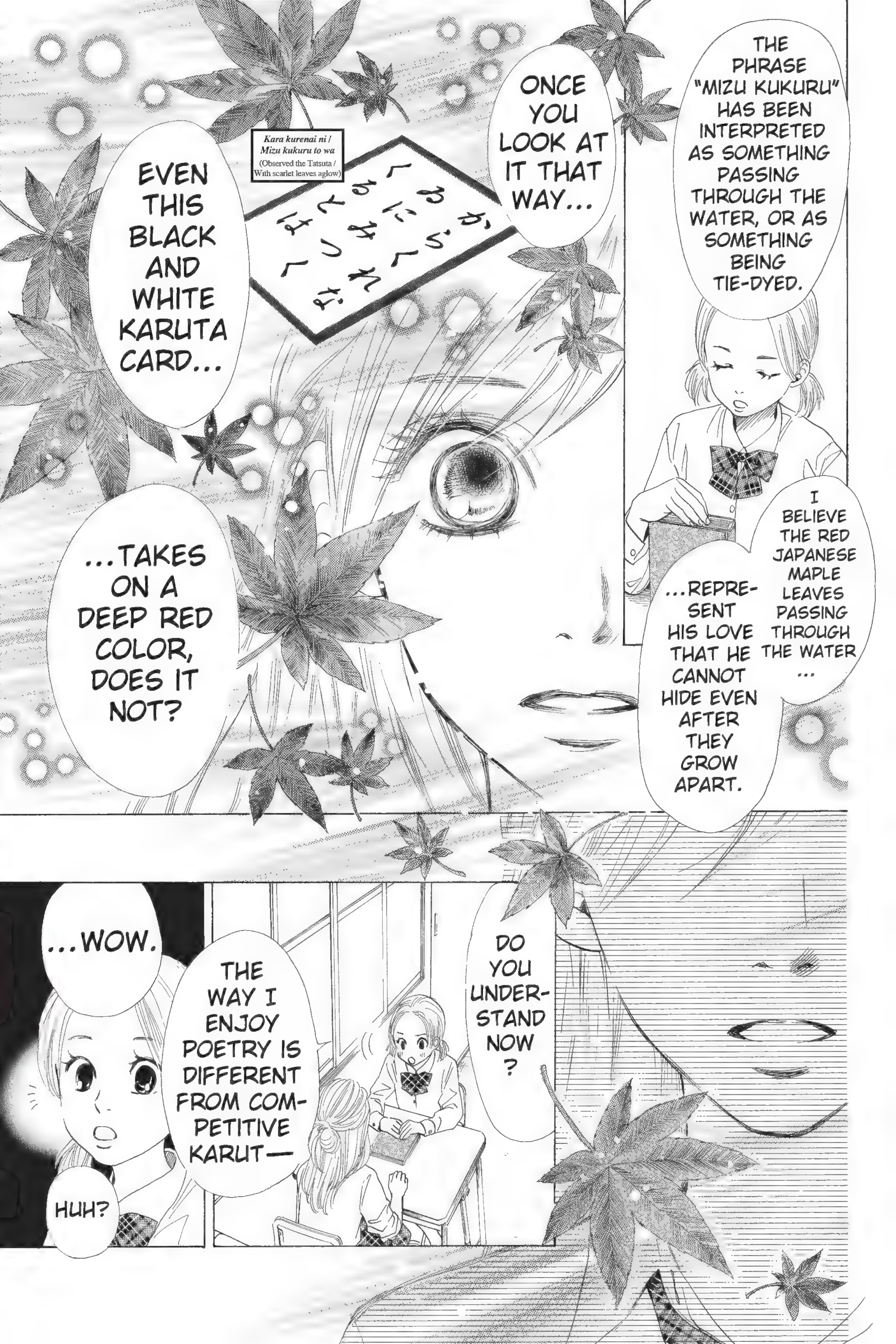

...
I...
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
MAYBE BECAUSE THEY'RE EXPENSIVE?
AND IT'S KIND OF A PAIN TO PUT ONE ON...
I COME...
...FROM A LONG LINE OF KIMONO SELLERS...
I LOVE KIMONO...
...AND I WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES THEM SO GREAT...
YET ALL WE EVER SELL ARE CHEAP YUKATA.
IN OUR DIRE FINANCIAL SITUATION, WE CAN'T EVEN HIRE A MODEL FOR NEXT YEAR'S CATALOG...

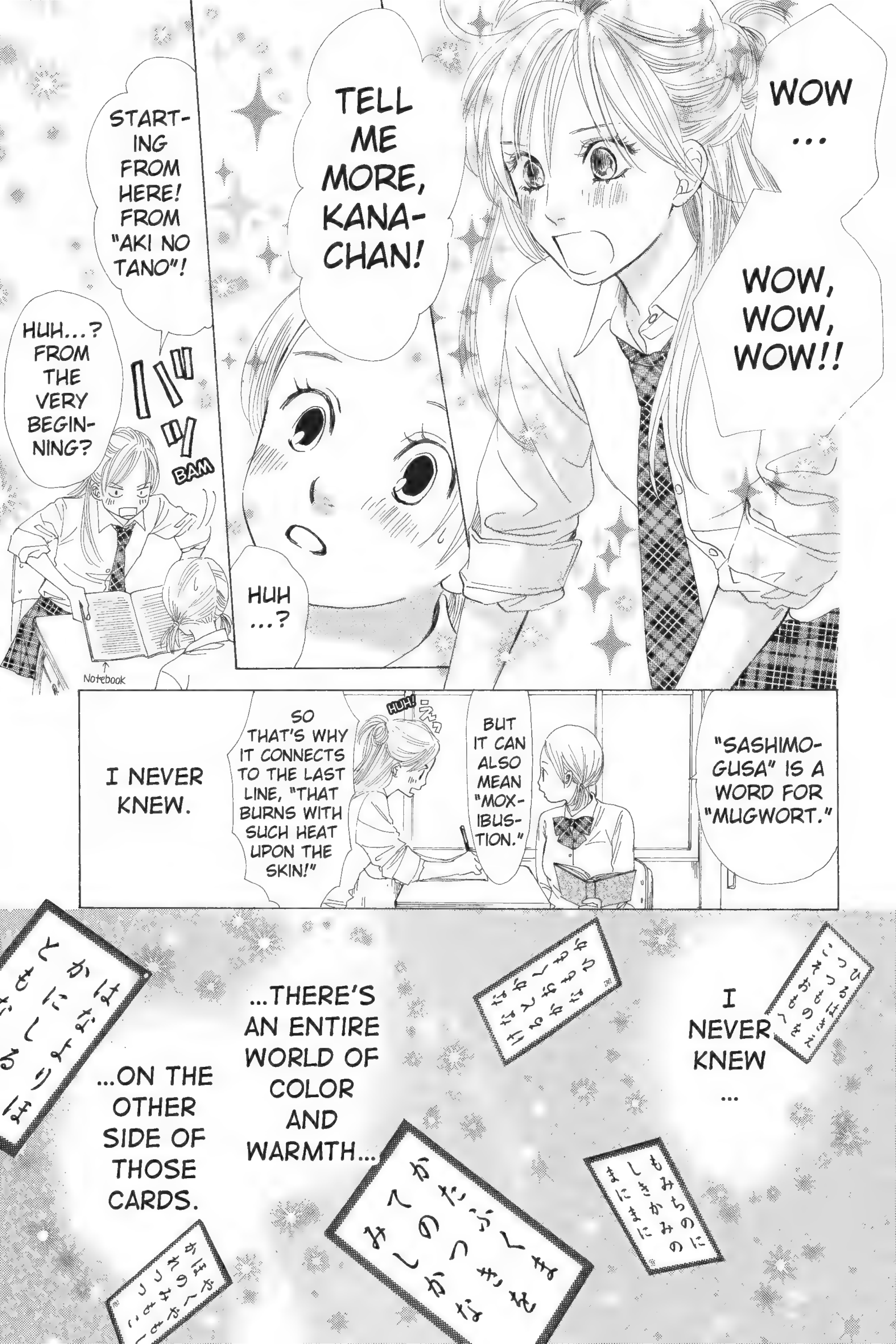

IF I WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR A HAKAMA HERE, PERHAPS I'M BEST SUITED IN THE ARCHERY CLUB AFTER ALL.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.
...
WE DON'T EVEN HEAR THE CARDS AS POEMS.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW WHAT A LOT OF THEM MEAN, DO YOU?
WOW, SHE'S OBSESSED WITH KARUTA FOR A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT REASON THAN YOU...
SHE'S NOT CUT OUT FOR COMPETITIVE KARUTA.

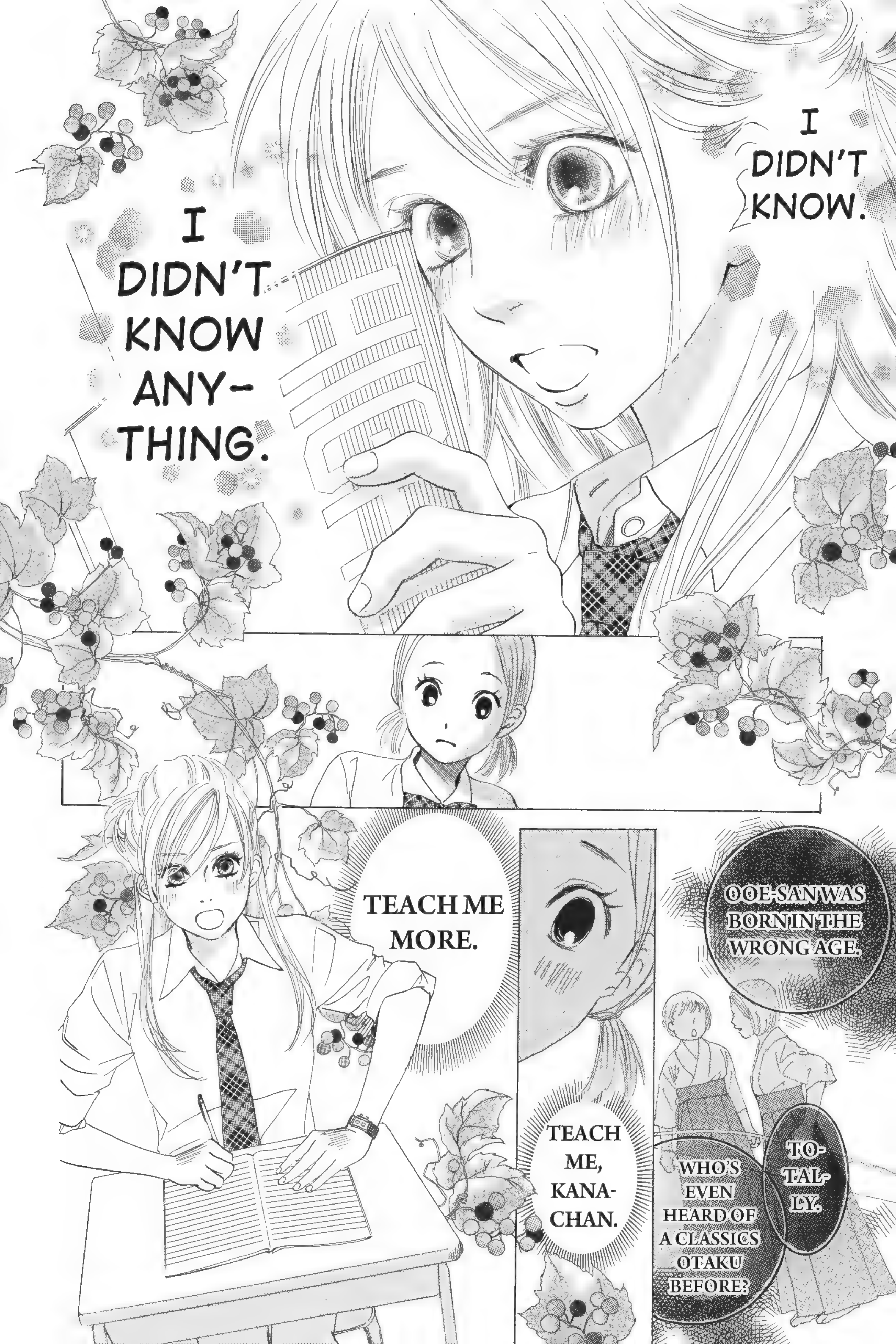

ザワ
CHATTER
1－6
山森正雄
東山文化と現代の日本
Masao Yamamori / Higashiyama Culture and Contemporary Japan
CHATTER
ザワ
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
LOOK, SHE'S HERE!
SHE'S SO CUTE!
HUH?
WHOA!
ザワ
CHATTER
WOW...
THAT'S AN INTENSE BOOK YOU'RE READING...

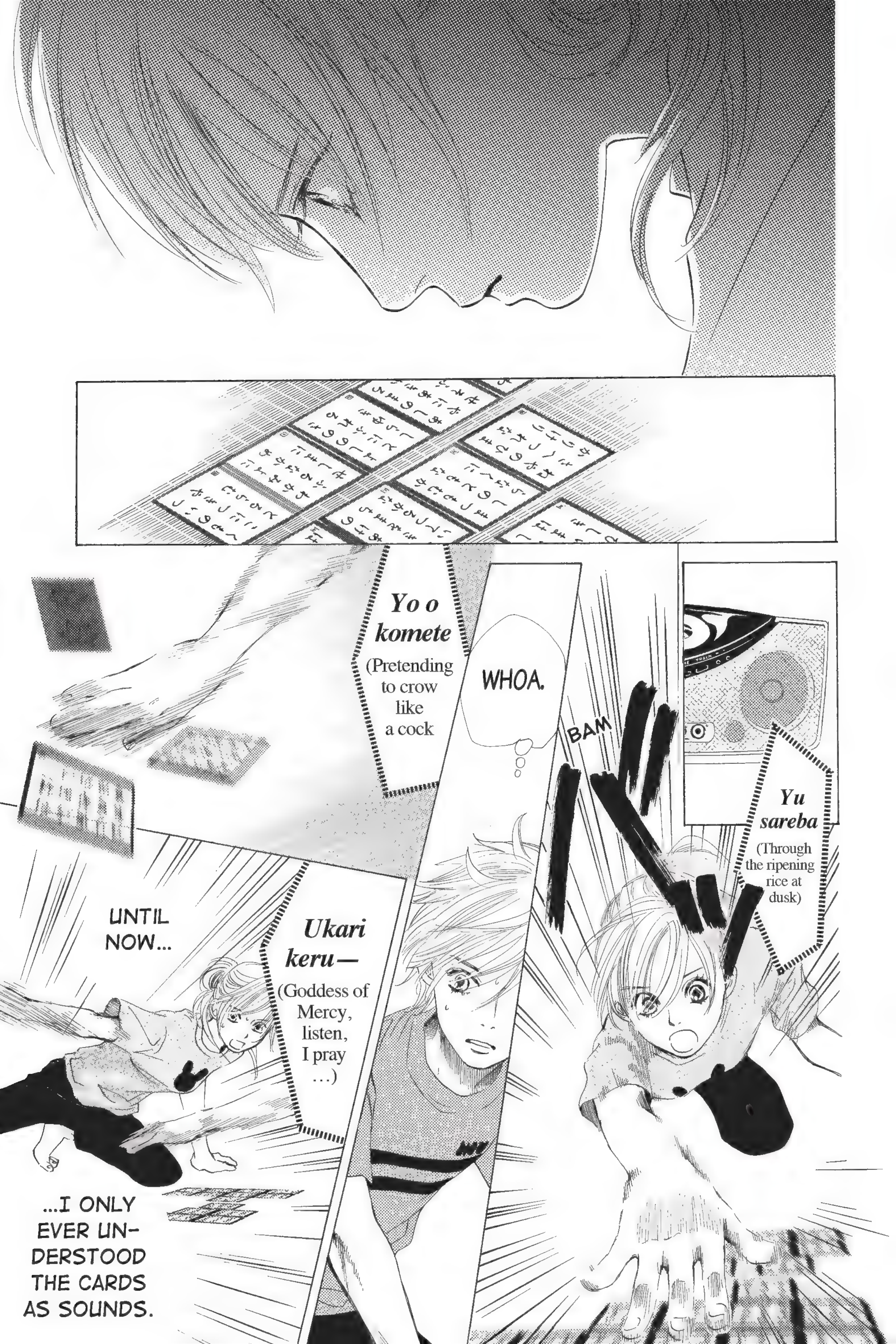

OH!
AYASE-SAN!
I WENT THROUGH EVERY CLASS TO FIND YOU.
YOUR NAME IS KANADE OOE-SAN, RIGHT?
Kana-chan!
YOU LIKE KARUTA, DON'T YOU, KANA-CHAN?
SO LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!
YES, BUT YOU AND I LIKE IT IN DIFFERENT WAYS.
THERE'S NOT A TOUCH OF ROMANCE IN YOUR COMPETITIVE PLAY...
BUT I HAVE SOME THAT I LIKE AS POEMS, TOO.
WELL, THE "CHIHAYAFURU" ONE.
I EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.
IT'S ABOUT HOW SUPER BEAUTIFUL THE TATSUTA RIVER IS WHEN IT'S BEEN TIE-DYED DEEP RED!
I read it in a book.
在原業平朝臣
千早振る
神代もきかず
龍田川
から紅に
水くくるとは
Ariwara no Narihira:
Chihayaburu / Kamiyo mo kikazu / Tatsutagawa / Kara kurenai ni / Mizu kukuru to wa
(I have not heard / The gods of long ago / Observed the Tatsuta / With scarlet leaves aglow)
JAPANESE POEMS ONLY BECOME TRULY INTERESTING ONCE YOU KNOW THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THEM.
I BELIEVE THIS IS A POEM ABOUT PASSIONATE LOVE.

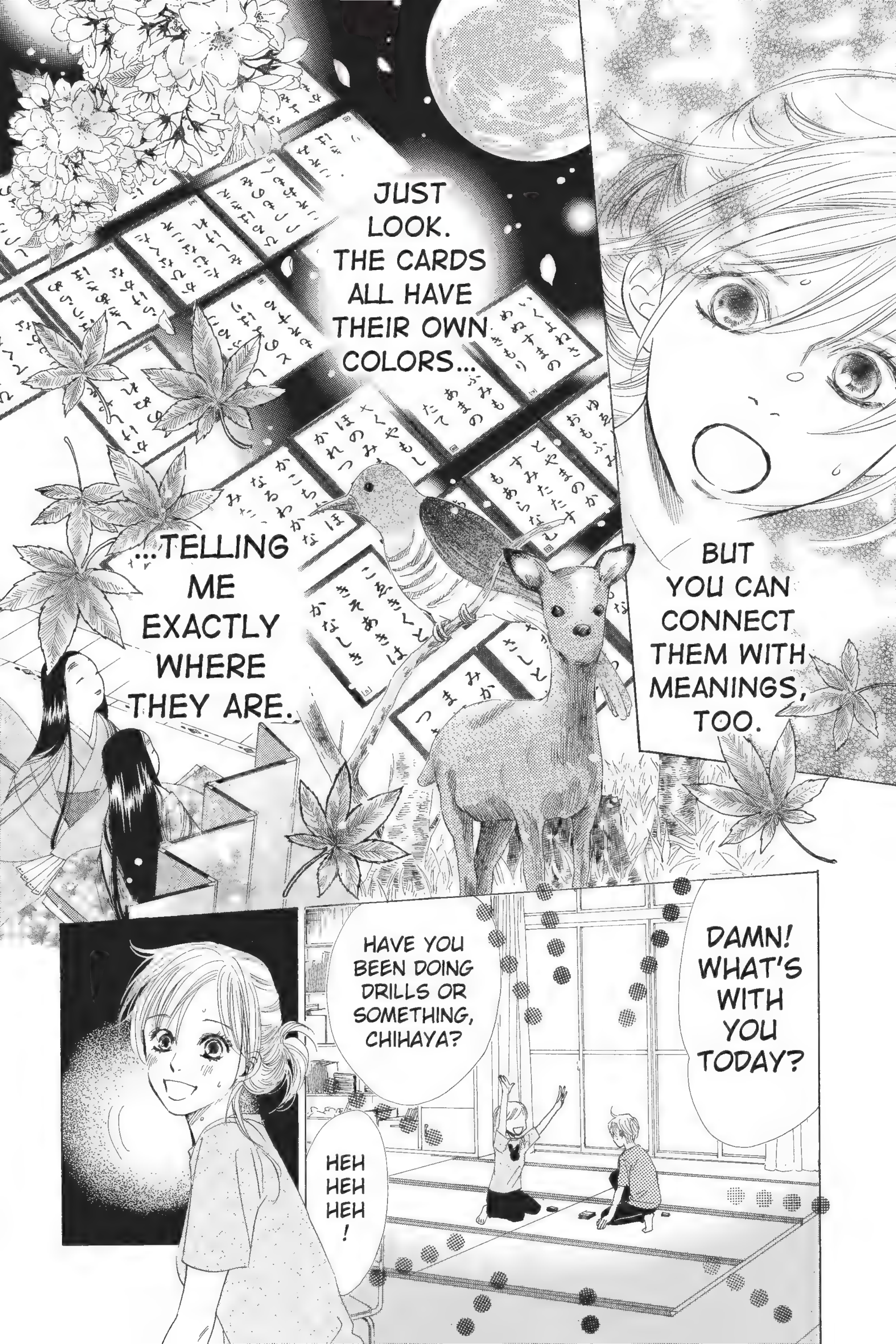

HUH...? LOVE...?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SCENERY?
YES, OF COURSE THAT'S THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED MEANING.
ARE YOU AWARE OF THE WILD ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP EMPRESS NIJO HAD WITH ARIWARA NO NARIHIRA BEFORE SHE MARRIED INTO THE COURT?
It's an extremely famous story.
I...I DON'T.
Sorry.
THE POEM WAS DISPLAYED ON A FOLDING SCREEN WITHIN THE PALACE.
SOME BELIEVE IT WAS THERE ON THE REQUEST OF EMPRESS NIJO HERSELF.
IT'S SAID THAT NARIHIRA WAS NEVER ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT THE EMPRESS.
THAT IS WHY I LIKE TO READ THE POEM AS HIDING HIS PASSION WITHIN ITS SCENERY.
"CHIHAYABURU" IS A TERM USED TO MEAN "GOD" IN JAPANESE POETRY,
AND IT CARRIES A MEANING OF GREAT FORCE.

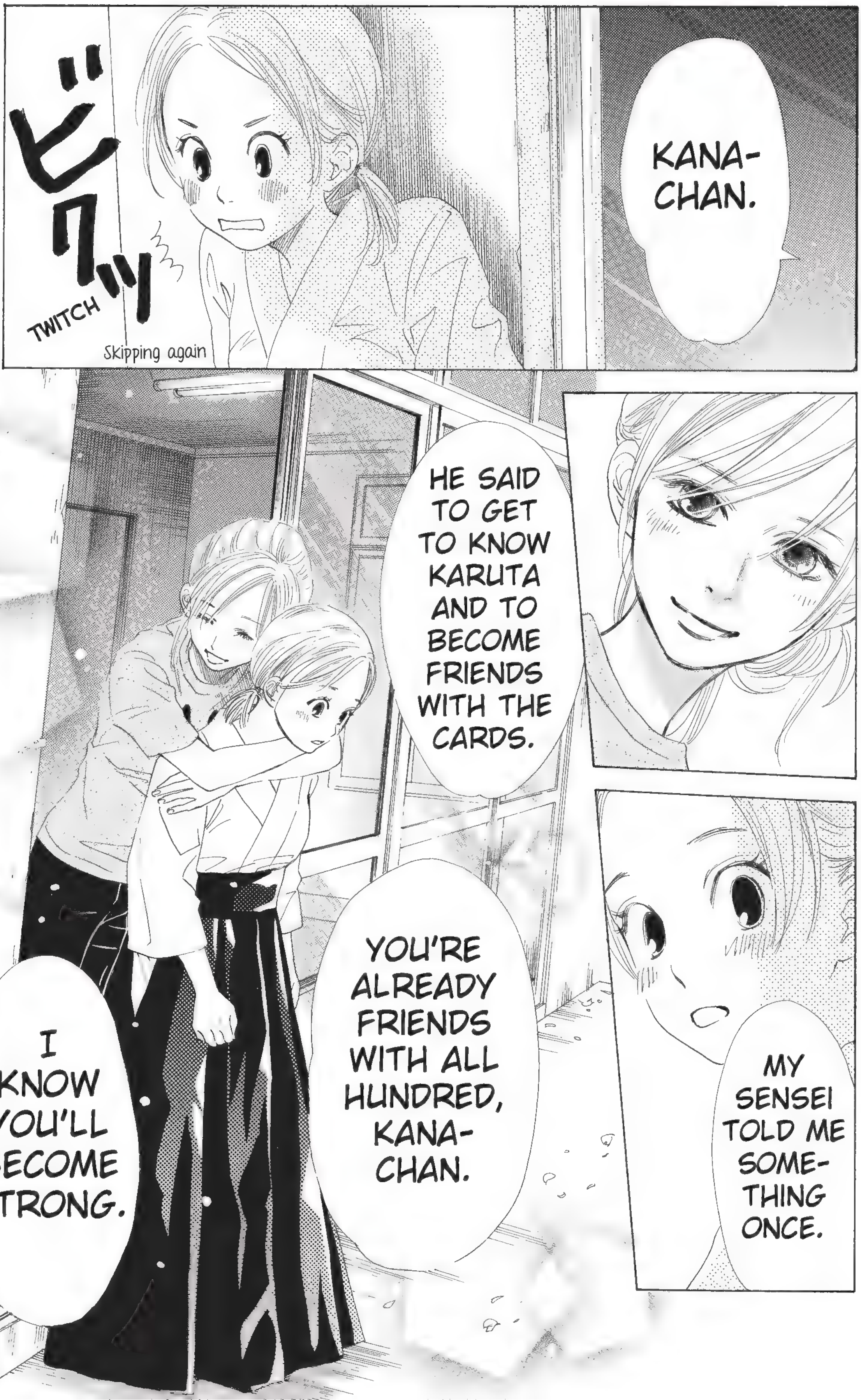

THE PHRASE "MIZU KUKURU" HAS BEEN INTERPRETED AS SOMETHING PASSING THROUGH THE WATER, OR AS SOMETHING BEING TIE-DYED.
I BELIEVE THE RED JAPANESE MAPLE LEAVES PASSING THROUGH THE WATER...
...REPRESENT HIS LOVE THAT HE CANNOT HIDE EVEN AFTER THEY GROW APART.
ONCE YOU LOOK AT IT THAT WAY...
からくれなゐにみつくくるとは
Kara kurenai ni / Mizu kukuru to wa
(Observed the Tatsuta / With scarlet leaves aglow)
EVEN THIS BLACK AND WHITE KARUTA CARD...
...TAKES ON A DEEP RED COLOR, DOES IT NOT?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
THE WAY I ENJOY POETRY IS DIFFERENT FROM COMPETITIVE KARUT—
...WOW.
HUH?

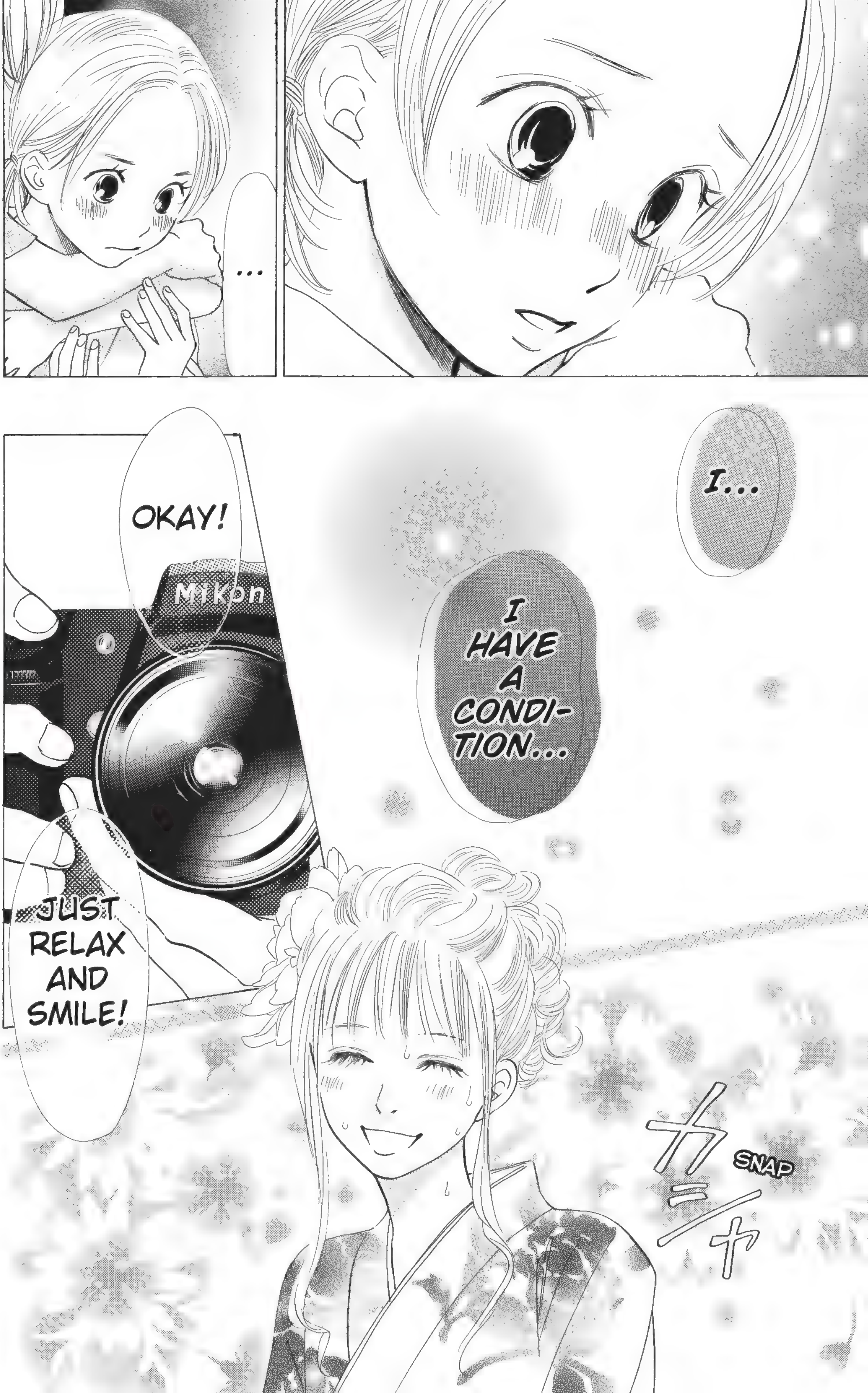

WOW…
WOW, WOW, WOW!!
TELL ME MORE, KANA-CHAN!
HUH…?
STARTING FROM HERE! FROM "AKI NO TANO"!
BAM
HUH…? FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
Notebook
"SASHIMOGUSA" IS A WORD FOR "MUGWORT."
BUT IT CAN ALSO MEAN "MOXIBUSTION."
HUH!
SO THAT'S WHY IT CONNECTS TO THE LAST LINE, "THAT BURNS WITH SUCH HEAT UPON THE SKIN!"
I NEVER KNEW.
I NEVER KNEW…
…THERE'S AN ENTIRE WORLD OF COLOR AND WARMTH…
…ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE CARDS.
もみちのにしきかみのまにまに
かたふくまてのつきをみしかな

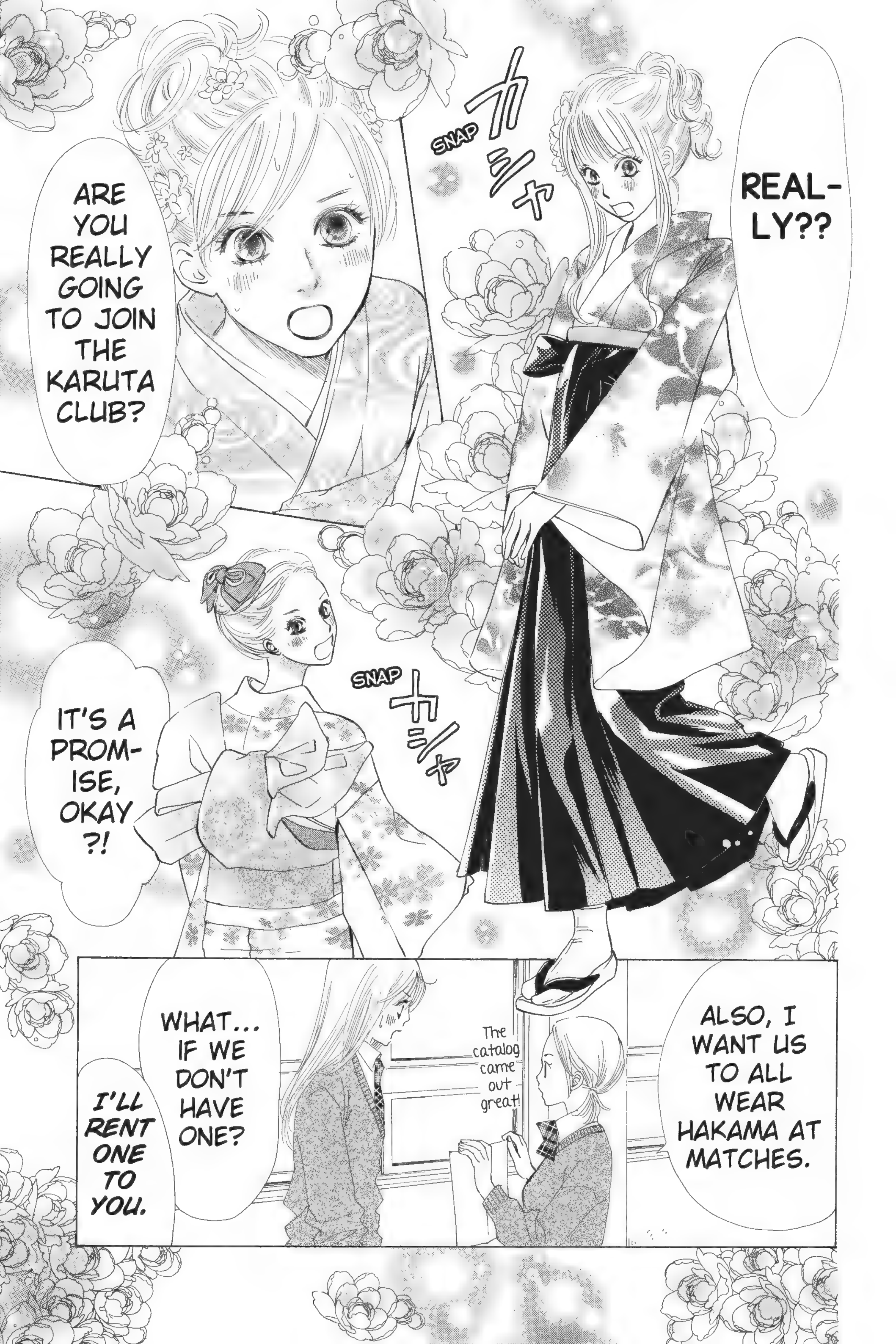

I DIDN'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
OOE-SAN WAS BORN IN THE WRONG AGE.
TOTALLY.
WHO'S EVEN HEARD OF A CLASSICS OTAKU BEFORE?
TEACH ME, KANA-CHAN.
TEACH ME MORE.

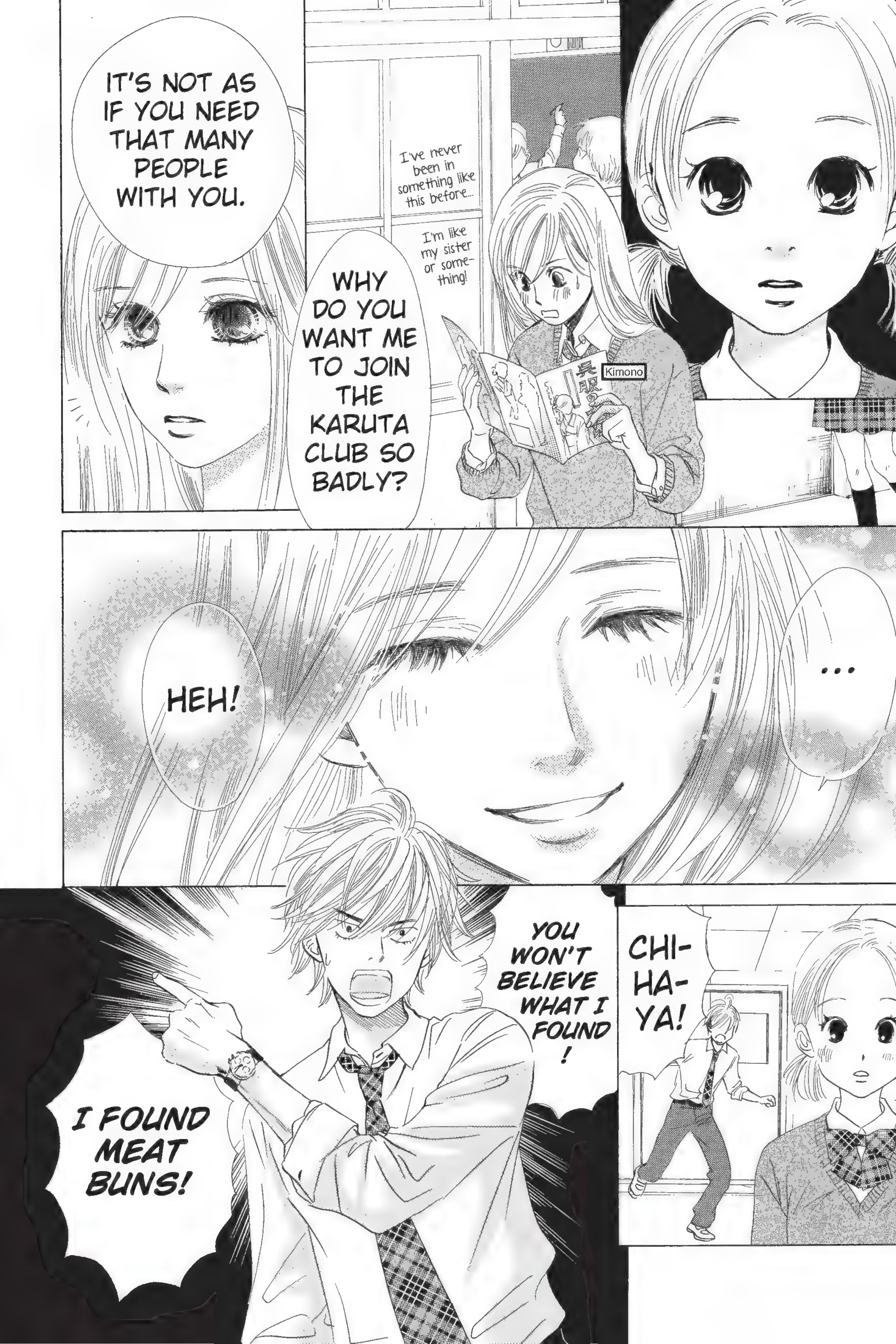

Yu sareba
(Through the ripening rice at dusk)
BAM
WHOA.
Yo o komete
(Pretending to crow like a cock)
Ukari keru—
(Goddess of Mercy, listen, I pray …)
UNTIL NOW...
...I ONLY EVER UNDERSTOOD THE CARDS AS SOUNDS.

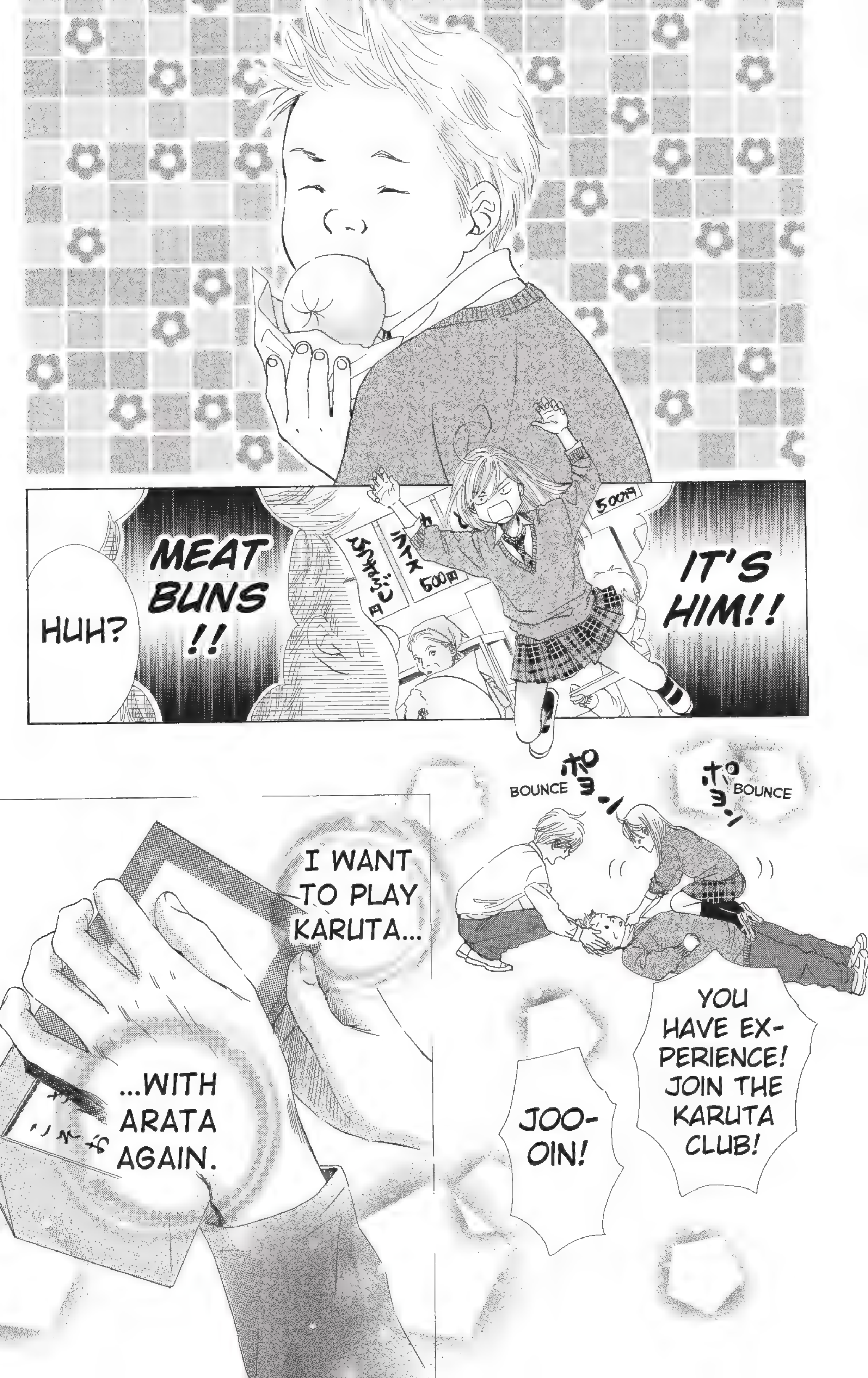

JUST LOOK. THE CARDS ALL HAVE THEIR OWN COLORS...
...TELLING ME EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE.
BUT YOU CAN CONNECT THEM WITH MEANINGS, TOO.
DAMN! WHAT'S WITH YOU TODAY?
HAVE YOU BEEN DOING DRILLS OR SOMETHING, CHIHAYA?
HEH HEH HEH!

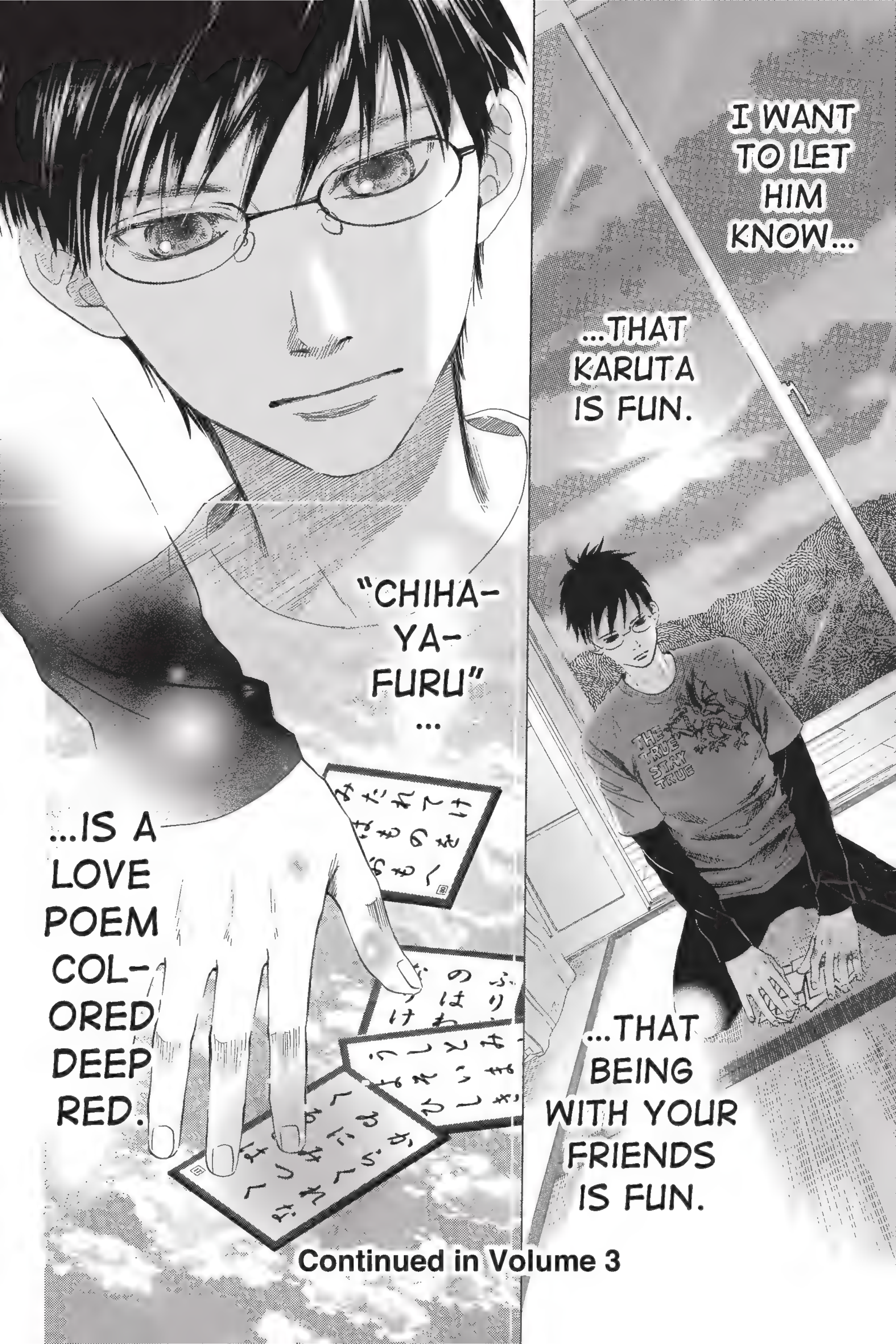

KANA-CHAN.
ビクッ
TWITCH
Skipping again
MY SENSEI TOLD ME SOMETHING ONCE.
HE SAID TO GET TO KNOW KARUTA AND TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE CARDS.
YOU'RE ALREADY FRIENDS WITH ALL HUNDRED, KANA-CHAN.
I KNOW YOU'LL BECOME STRONG.


...
I...
I HAVE A CONDITION...
OKAY!
JUST RELAX AND SMILE!
SNAP


REALLY??
SNAP カシャ
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO JOIN THE KARUTA CLUB?
SNAP カシャ
IT'S A PROMISE, OKAY?!
ALSO, I WANT US TO ALL WEAR HAKAMA AT MATCHES.
The catalog came out great!
WHAT... IF WE DON'T HAVE ONE?
I'LL RENT ONE TO YOU.


I've never been in something like this before...
I'm like my sister or something!
Kimono
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO JOIN THE KARUTA CLUB SO BADLY?
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU NEED THAT MANY PEOPLE WITH YOU.
...
HEH!
CHI-HA-YA!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT I FOUND!
I FOUND MEAT BUNS!

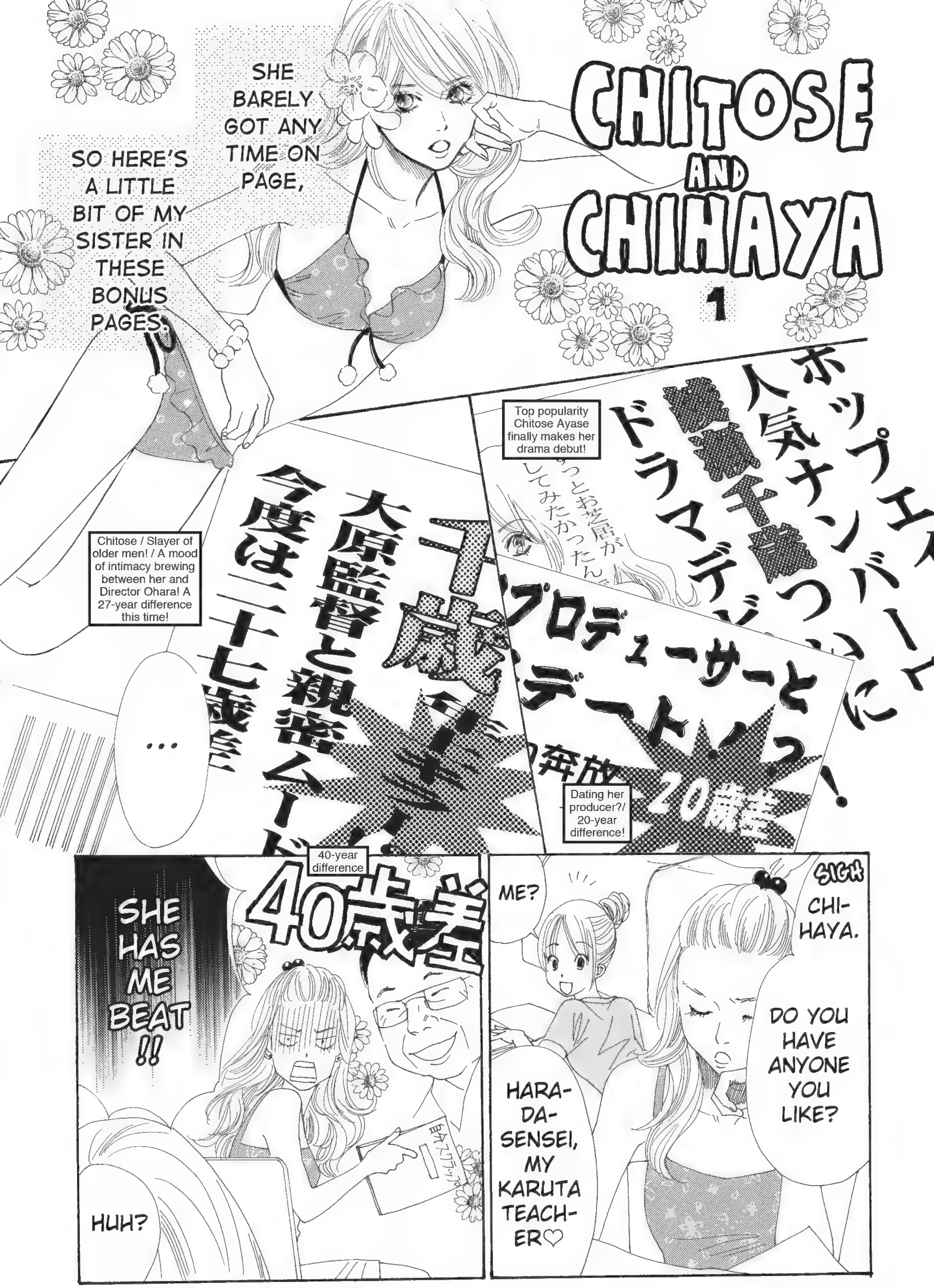

IT'S HIM!!
500円
ライス 500円
ひつまぶし 円
MEAT BUNS!!
HUH?
ポヨン BOUNCE
BOUNCE ポヨン
YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE! JOIN THE KARUTA CLUB!
JOO-OIN!
I WANT TO PLAY KARUTA...
...WITH ARATA AGAIN.


I WANT TO LET HIM KNOW...
...THAT KARUTA IS FUN.
...THAT BEING WITH YOUR FRIENDS IS FUN.
THE TRUE STAY TRUE
"CHIHAYAFURU"...
...IS A LOVE POEM COLORED DEEP RED.

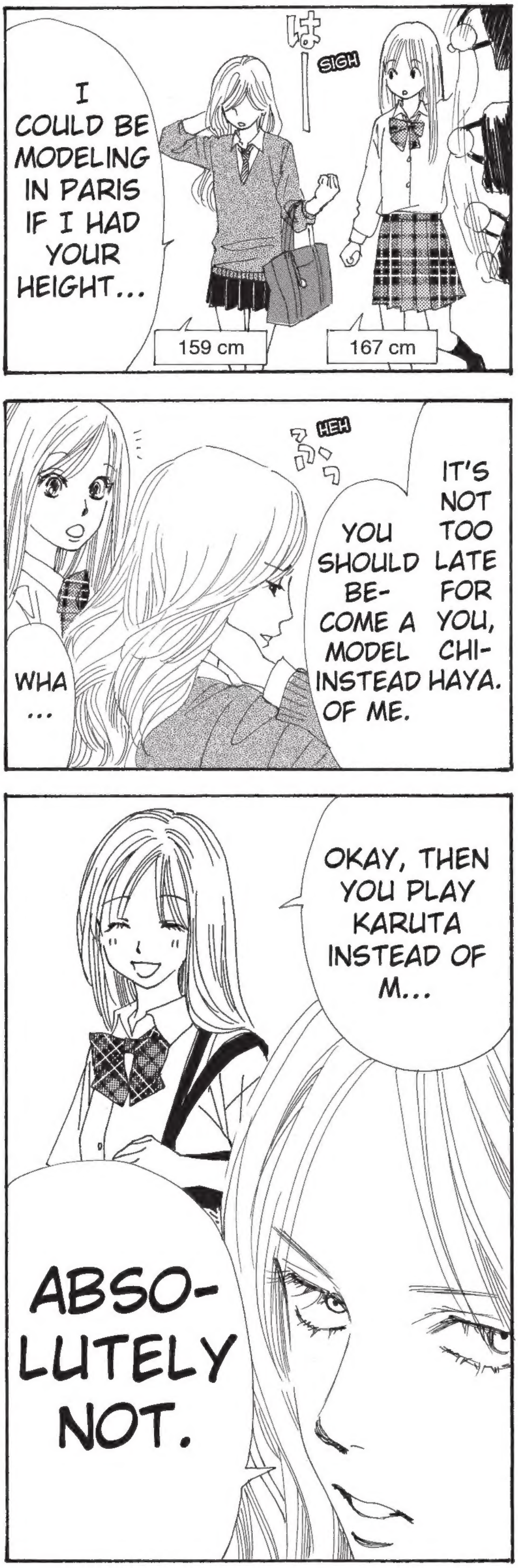
Continued in Volume 3

CHITOSE AND CHIHAYA

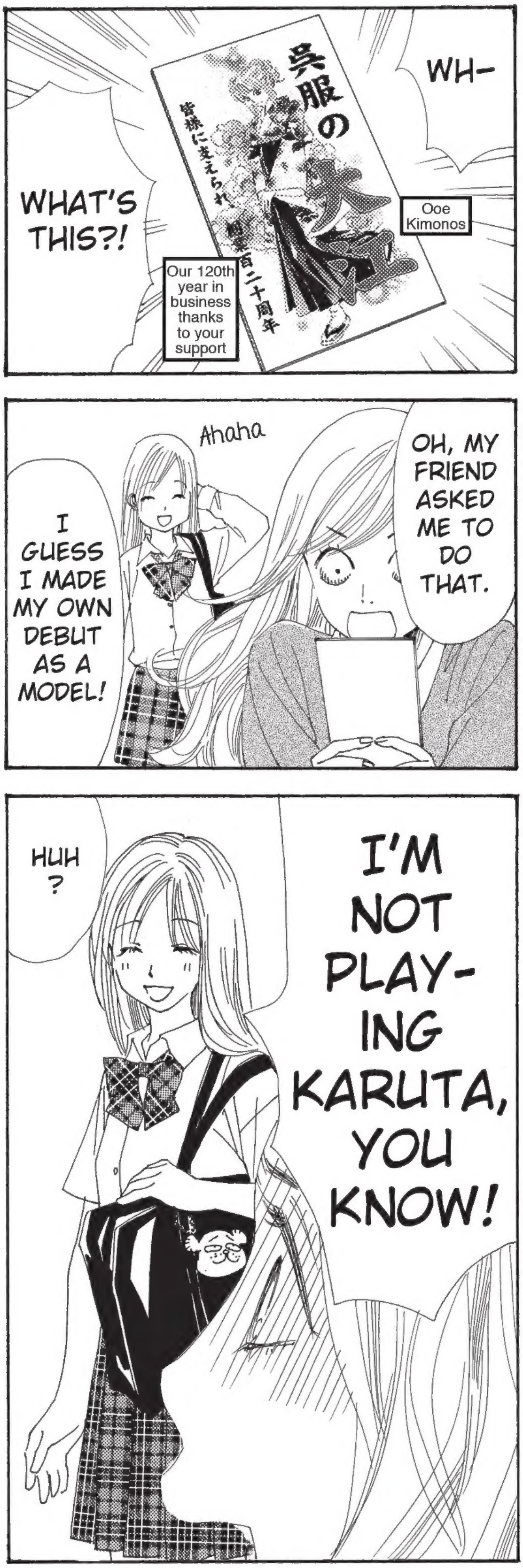
1


SHE BARELY GOT ANY TIME ON PAGE,
SO HERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF MY SISTER IN THESE BONUS PAGES.
ホップエ
人気ナンバー
綾瀬千歳ついに
ドラマデビ
Top popularity Chitose Ayase finally makes her drama debut!
っとお芝居が
してみたかったん
千歳
大原監督と親密ムード
今度は二十七歳差
Chitose / Slayer of older men! / A mood of intimacy brewing between her and Director Ohara! A 27-year difference this time!
…
プロデューサーとデートっ！
奔放
20歳差
Dating her producer?/ 20-year difference!
SIGH
CHI-HAYA.
DO YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU LIKE?
ME?
HARA-DA-SENSEI, MY KARUTA TEACHER♡
40歳差
40-year difference
SHE HAS ME BEAT!!
HUH?

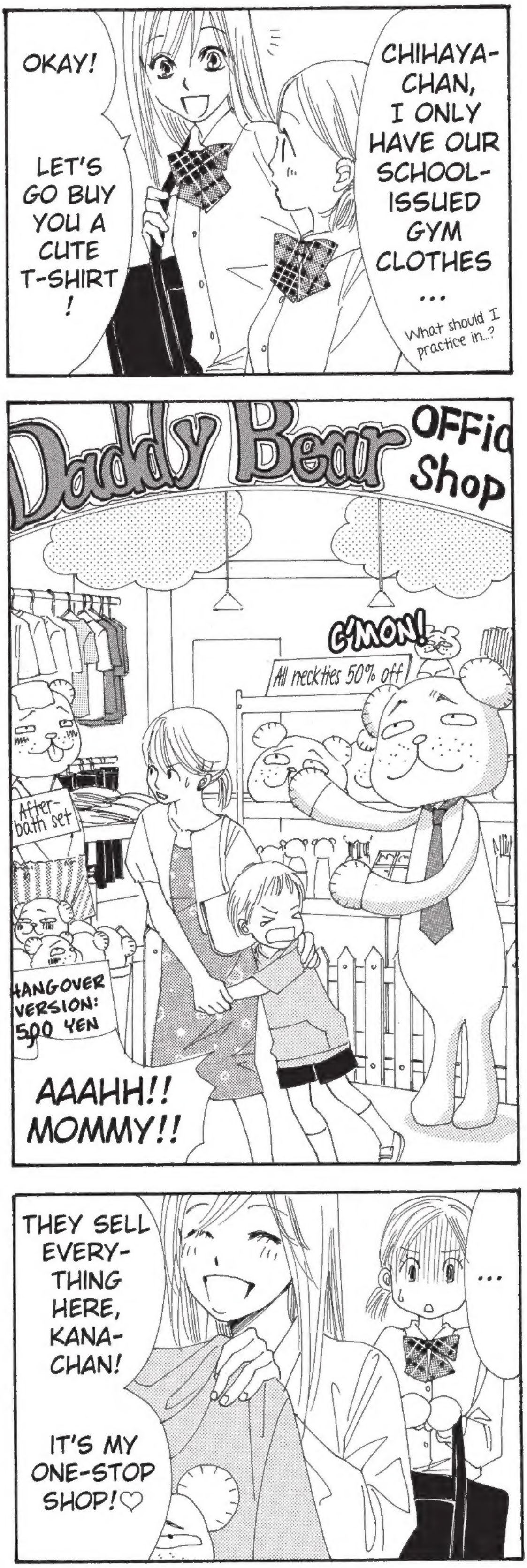
CHITOSE AND CHIHAYA 2


はー
SIGH
I COULD BE MODELING IN PARIS IF I HAD YOUR HEIGHT...
159 cm
167 cm
ふっ
HEH
IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU, CHIHAYA.
YOU SHOULD BECOME A MODEL INSTEAD OF ME.
WHA...
OKAY, THEN YOU PLAY KARUTA INSTEAD OF M...
ABSOLUTELY NOT.

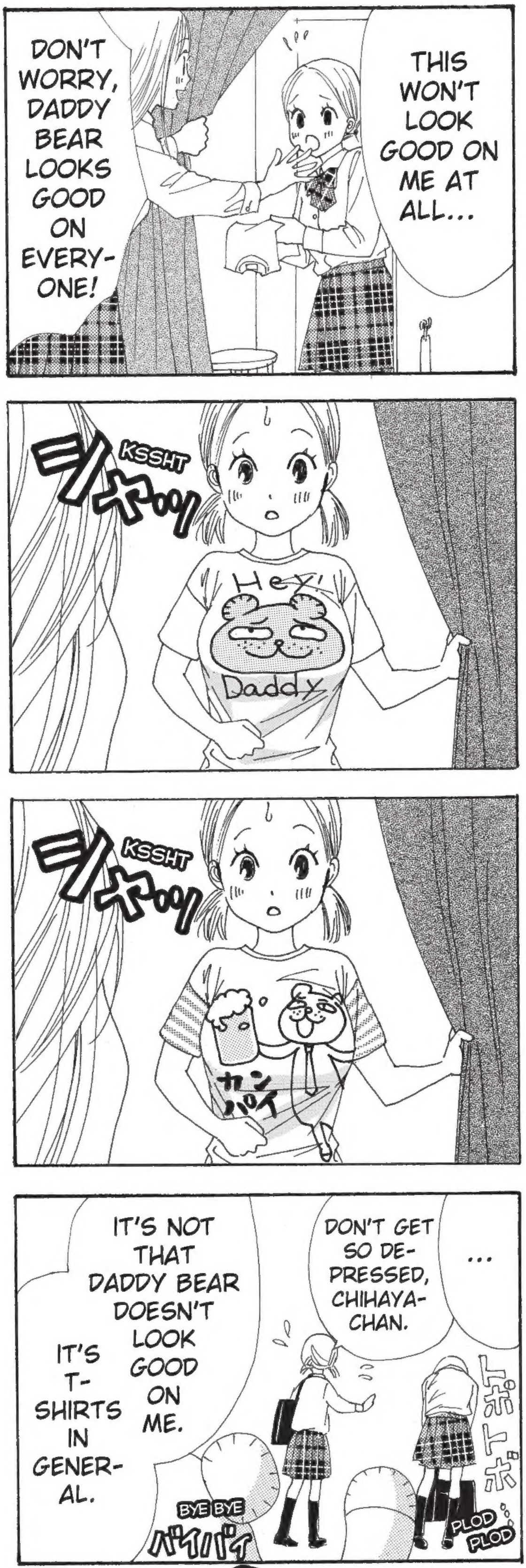
CHITOSE AND CHIHAYA 3


WH-
WHAT'S THIS?!
呉服の
大江
皆様に支えられ
創業百二十周年
Ooe Kimonos
Our 120th year in business thanks to your support
OH, MY FRIEND ASKED ME TO DO THAT.
Ahaha
I GUESS I MADE MY OWN DEBUT AS A MODEL!
I'M NOT PLAYING KARUTA, YOU KNOW!
HUH?

DADDY BEAR FAN CLUB


CHIHAYA-CHAN, I ONLY HAVE OUR SCHOOL-ISSUED GYM CLOTHES...
What should I practice in...?
OKAY!
LET'S GO BUY YOU A CUTE T-SHIRT!
Daddy Bear OFFIC Shop
C'MON!
All neckties 50% off
After-bath set
HANGOVER VERSION: 500 YEN
AAAHH!! MOMMY!!
...
THEY SELL EVERYTHING HERE, KANA-CHAN!
IT'S MY ONE-STOP SHOP!♡

DADDY BEAR EVANGELISTS


THIS WON'T LOOK GOOD ON ME AT ALL...
DON'T WORRY, DADDY BEAR LOOKS GOOD ON EVERYONE!
KSSHT
Hey! Daddy
KSSHT
カンパイ
...
DON'T GET SO DEPRESSED, CHIHAYA-CHAN.
IT'S NOT THAT DADDY BEAR DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME.
IT'S T-SHIRTS IN GENERAL.
トボトボ
PLOD PLOD
バイバイ
BYE BYE

I'll keep doing my best in volume 3!
The End

Chihayafuru 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2008 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682336724

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Ko Ransom
Lettering by Hiroko Mizuno